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EDITORIAL NOTE

The General Election held to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha in April-May 2009, witnessed the biggest democratic exercise in the world. It conformed to the best democratic practices and reiterated the abiding faith of the people of India in democratic values and traditions established in the country over the years.

The Indian National Congress (INC)-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) emerged as the largest alliance in the Fifteenth General Election. The INC also emerged as the single largest party, followed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Fifteenth Lok Sabha was constituted with the Election Commission issuing a notification under section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. We include in this issue of the *Journal,* the events relating to the constitution of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha under the feature titled 'The Fifteenth Lok Sabha : Triumph of Democracy'.

The Fifteenth Lok Sabha commenced its first session on 1 June 2009. The Constitution of India under article 87 provides for an Address by the President to both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year. On 4 June 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The text of the Address by the President is reproduced in this issue of the *Journal.*

After the oath or affirmation of the newly elected members, the election to the Office of the Speaker was held on 3 June 2009. An experienced parliamentarian of long standing, Smt. Meira Kumar was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Leaders of various political parties and groups warmly congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar on her election to the august office of the Speaker. We extend our heartiest felicitations to Smt. Meira Kumar on her assuming the office of the Speaker and include in this issue a feature titled 'The Election of the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha'.

In continuing with our parliamentary practice of electing the Deputy Speaker from the Opposition, Shri Kariya Munda of Bharatiya Janata

Party, was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha on 8 June 2009. We felicitate Shri Kariya Munda on his election to the office of the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha and include in this issue of the Journal, a feature titled 'The Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always look forward to suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary democratic system.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

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ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The provision for an Address by the Head of State to the Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both the Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

Following the constitution of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 4 June 2009.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

I am extremely happy to address the First Session of both Houses of Parliament after the elections to the 15th Lok Sabha. My greetings to all members, especially the newly elected members of the Lok Sabha. They are here having spent the last few months in the scorching heat trying to persuade their voters on how they could best represent the aspirations of their electorate. They now have the mandate and the opportunity to translate the hopes and aspirations of the people of India into change in the everyday lives of the people. It is indeed a unique privilege given to a chosen few to represent the hopes of over a billion people, a sixth of humanity.

I am sure that their anxieties, hopes and dreams will weigh on you as you commence your work. I urge you to use each day of the next five years in giving substance to those aspirations and in doing so, find greater meaning in your own lives. My good wishes are with you.

I congratulate the members of the Lok Sabha for unanimously electing the Speaker and that too a woman who is a *Dalit* with honourable credentials. This has enhanced the prestige of India's democratic traditions, that of the House and its members.

Last week the State of West Bengal was affected by a cyclone inflicting damage to lives and property. Let us convey our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families. My Government will extend all possible succour to the cyclone affected people of West Bengal.

I would like to congratulate the Election Commission and the lakhs of officials, who conducted the smooth and largely peaceful elections to the 15th Lok Sabha. Election to the Indian Parliament is truly the greatest festival of democracy in the world and this mammoth task has been executed exceedingly well. Democracy is one of the finest ideas that humankind has produced and every Indian election celebrates the freedom of choice that powers this idea. India has a unique place in the consciousness of the world as the largest functioning democracy. When an elderly woman in a remote village proudly holds up the indelible ink mark on her index finger, she is telling the world that she has the power to make change in her country.

In 2004 my Government had set before the country a vision of an inclusive society and an inclusive economy. It worked diligently towards translating this vision into policies and programmes. My Government sees the overwhelming mandate it has received as a vindication of the policy architecture of inclusion that it put in place. It is a mandate for inclusive growth, equitable development and a secular and plural India. My Government is determined to work harder and better to realize these goals.

A continuing priority of my Government would be to consolidate the ongoing flagship programmes for inclusion. This will require re-energising Government and improving governance. It will require meeting the challenge of restoring economic growth, which is now hurt by the global economic slowdown, back to a higher growth path. High growth is necessary to provide the Government the capacity to expand opportunities for employment. It is necessary to provide resources to increase outlays in education, health care and infrastructure to meet the needs of all regions and all people. My Government will ensure that the growth process is not only accelerated but also made socially and regionally more inclusive and equitable. The yearning of our people for inclusiveness – economic, social and cultural — and the rejection of the forces of divisiveness and intolerance that my Government spoke of in 2004 continues as both its inspiring vision and its unfinished business.

My Government is acutely conscious of the challenge of rising

expectations. There would be ten broad areas of priority for my Government for the next five years.

- Internal security and preservation of communal harmony;
- Stepping up of economic growth in agriculture, manufacturing and services;
- Consolidation of the existing flagship programmes for employment, education, health, rural infrastructure, urban renewal and introduction of new flagship programmes for food security and skill development;
- Concerted action for the welfare of women, youth, children, other backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, the differently abled and the elderly along with strengthened social protection;
- Governance reform;
- Creation and modernization of infrastructure and capacity addition in key sectors;
- Prudent fiscal management;
- Energy security and environment protection;
- Constructive and creative engagement with the world; and
- Promotion of a culture of enterprise and innovation.

My Government will maintain utmost vigil in the area of internal security. A policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, from whatever source it originates, will be pursued. Stern measures to handle insurgency and Left wing extremism will be taken. Government has already prepared a detailed plan to address internal security challenges to be implemented in a time-bound manner. The Multi-Agency Centre will be strengthened to ensure effective intelligence sharing and processing and Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres will be activated in all the States. The National Investigation Agency has become operational and will be empowered to handle terror-related offences. Central and State police forces and intelligence agencies will be expanded and fully equipped with the best technology. A national counter-terrorism centre will be established to take pro-active anti-terrorism measures. Special Forces and Quick Response Teams will be raised and deployed in vulnerable areas. Enhanced information and intelligence sharing on a real time basis, would be made possible by the creation of a net-centric information command structure.

My Government will actively pursue police reform and in order to ensure the active participation of the citizenry in internal security, community policing will be promoted. At the same time the Government will continue to constructively engage with all groups that abjure

violence in the Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

Communal harmony shall be preserved at all costs. The mandate my Government received was unmistakable in that the people wanted the country's secular fabric to be protected. With this objective my Government will seek early approval of the Bill introduced in the Parliament for the prevention of communal violence.

Our armed forces are the nation's pride, a symbol of our values of sacrifice, valour and the spirit of national integration. India's defence forces stand committed to the task of defending the territorial integrity of the country. They will be fully enabled with modern technology to repel any threat from land, sea or air. To enhance combat efficiency as also to address the requirements of modern day warfare, a number of steps are underway. The welfare of ex-servicemen will continue to be accorded high priority. The Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension has already commenced its work and expects to complete it by the end of June 2009.

The Unique Identity Card scheme for each citizen will be implemented in three years overseen by an Empowered Group. This would serve the purpose of identification for development programmes and security.

My Government was able to accelerate growth substantially in the last five years to a record five-year average of 8.5 per cent. This produced an impressive expansion in high quality jobs and also gave us the capacity to guarantee rural employment and expand social and economic infrastructure in an unprecedented manner. My Government gave a new deal to agriculture. Public investment in agriculture was increased, farm loans of over Rupees sixty five thousand crore waived and there were handsome increases in procurement prices. These measures contributed to a revival of agricultural growth. My Government was able to expand access to education through a large number of new schools and other educational institutions, support a mid-day meal programme covering over fifteen crore children, provide nearly a crore of deserving students with scholarships each year, loans to over 16 lakh students and create a new wave of investment in institutions of higher education. It was able to revamp rural public health infrastructure and massively expand social protection through insurance schemes and pensions. Government was also able to effect pay revision for its employees including defence personnel, public sector employees and teachers in colleges. My Government could also increase assistance to States substantially in the last five years. All these initiatives were possible because high growth generated more resources. It is therefore imperative that our growth momentum is resumed.

The current financial year is expected to see a slowing down of growth on account of the global recession. My Government has responded to this unforeseen situation with a range of measures, including three stimulus packages, which have begun to show results. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Indian economy has not suffered the kind of slowdown that has been witnessed in almost every other country of the world. Government has also actively engaged with the international community, especially through the forum of the G-20, in order to ensure that coordinated action is taken at the global level and the necessary reforms brought in at the earliest. Our immediate priority must be to focus on management of the economy that will counter the effect of the global slowdown by a combination of sectoral and macro-level policies. My Government will focus attention on sectors that are adversely affected, especially Small and Medium Enterprises, exports, textiles, commercial vehicles, infrastructure and housing. This must be accompanied by measures to achieve a countercyclical expansion in public investment in infrastructure sectors including public-private partnerships in these sectors. Financing the investment will be a critical constraint and my Government is determined to ensure that innovative steps are taken in this area, consistent with a medium-term strategy of prudent fiscal management.

Our country has benefited from large foreign investment flows in recent years. These flows, especially foreign direct investment, need to be encouraged through an appropriate policy regime. There is also a need to augment resources in the banking and insurance sectors in order to permit them to serve the needs of society better. Towards this end my Government will recapitalize the public sector banks to strengthen their financial position and also bring legislation to establish a regulator for the pension sector.

The momentum of public investment in agriculture and irrigation built up in the last five years will be further expanded and the three major instruments — the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana,* National Food Security Mission and the National Horticulture Mission — introduced by my Government strengthened.

The flagship programmes which my Government introduced have moved the country towards inclusive development. It would be our endeavour to consolidate these programmes in the next five years. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has proved to be what it promised—an effective social protection measure and the largest programme in the world for rural reconstruction. Its transformational potential is unfolding before our eyes. My Government would enlarge the scope of works permitted under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act presently limited to unskilled manual work. The opportunity for improving land productivity through the NREGA will be maximized

through better convergence of NREGA with other programmes. To ensure transparency and public accountability, independent monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms will be set up at the district level.

The National Rural Health Mission has begun to strengthen rural public health infrastructure. The Mission would be consolidated to make perceptible reduction in infant mortality and maternal mortality in the next five years. Vaccine producing institutes in the public sector will be revived to support the immunization programme. My Government will expand the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* to cover all families below the poverty line in the next five years. Malnutrition has emerged as a major health challenge needing urgent response. Hence the nutrition delivery programme will be comprehensively revamped to bring it under the watch of *panchayat* institutions and move to provision of hot cooked meals in *anganwadis.*

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been able to provide access to children to elementary schools and retention has increased on account of the universal mid-day meal programme. The focus will be on making quality education a right through the enactment of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill now under consideration of Parliament. *The Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* will universalize access to secondary education. The massive expansion in higher education through new institutions under implementation in the Eleventh Plan will enable the country to meet the challenge of education in full measure. In the last five years, a wide range of scholarships and educational loans was introduced for the needy and deserving students. This effort will be reviewed and further strengthened. Government's strategy for higher education will be formulated around a three-fold objective of expansion, inclusion and excellence. The suggestions given by the National Knowledge Commission will guide the formulation and implementation of the strategy.

While male literacy went up to over 75 per cent in the last census and is expected to be higher now, female literacy was only 54 per cent in 2001. My Government will recast the National Literacy Mission as a National Mission for Female Literacy to make every woman literate in the next five years. Increased female literacy is expected to become a force multiplier for all our social development programmes.

My Government launched Bharat Nirman five years ago as a time-bound business plan for rural infrastructure. It has succeeded in reaching basic infrastructure of roads, electricity and telephone to a large number of villages. It has also achieved most of the targets of rural water supply, rural housing and has increased irrigation potential. The remaining tasks will be completed in the second phase of Bharat

Nirman. It is also proposed to set enhanced targets for Bharat Nirman in the second phase.

- The *Indira Awas Yojana,* which exceeded the original target of sixty lakh houses for the period 2004-2009, will now take up double the target of rural housing to one crore twenty lakh houses to be completed in the next five years.
- Rural Water supply programme will be completed by 2011 and handed over to be managed by *panchayats* in the next Plan.
- The rural telecommunication target will be set at reaching 40 per cent rural teledensity in the next five years and expanding broadband coverage to connect every *panchayat* to a broadband network in three years. The scheme for Common Service Centres or e-kiosks will be suitably repositioned to be a network of *panchayat*-level Bharat Nirman Common Service Centres to provide government services to citizens in rural areas.
- New targets would be set for rural electrification, irrigation and road connectivity.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with approval of projects of nearly Rs. 50,000 crore in the last four years is reshaping our cities and has been widely welcomed. It will continue to focus on infrastructure, basic services and governance reform and increase support to cities to upgrade public transport. Over 15 lakh houses are under construction for the urban poor. There is a need to focus urban housing programmes on the poor living in slums. My Government proposes to introduce a *Rajiv Awas Yojana* for the slum dwellers and the urban poor on the lines of the *Indira Awas Yojana* for the rural poor. The schemes for affordable housing through partnership and the scheme for interest subsidy for urban housing would be dovetailed into the *Rajiv Awas Yojana* which would extend support under JNNURM to the States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas. My Government's effort would be to create a slum free India in five years through the *Rajiv Awas Yojana.*

My Government proposes to enact a new law — the National Food Security Act — that will provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food security for all. Every family below the poverty line in rural as well as urban areas will be entitled, by law, to 25 kilograms of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 3 per kilogram. This legislation will also be used to bring about broader systemic reform in the public distribution system.

Government is acutely conscious of its responsibilities to provide greater opportunities for women, youth, other backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and the elderly as well as strengthen measures for social protection for categories with special vulnerabilities. Some concrete steps that are proposed to create equal opportunities for women are reservation to elected bodies at all levels, reservation in jobs and a National Mission on Female Literacy.

Over 50 per cent of our population is below 25 years of age and their creative energy is our greatest strategic resource. The challenge is to invest in their education, employability and employment. India has the capacity to contribute to a fourth of the global work force if it invests in skill development of its youth. Education which provides employable skills holds the key for equal opportunities for other backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minorities. My Government has in the last five years brought in legal changes and investment in this direction. These would be consolidated. Besides making massive investment in education, Government will focus on the national skill development initiative that has commenced operation with the very ambitious goal of creation of 500 million skilled people by 2022 so that we realize the demographic dividend.

The implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act would be monitored to ensure that all title deeds are distributed by end of 2009.

My Government will continue to accord the highest priority to the welfare of minorities. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities and the action taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee have, to some extent, succeeded in ensuring an equitable share for the minorities in Government resources, jobs and plans. Steps under way would be consolidated further. Government would strive to strengthen and modernize the administration of *wakfs*, reform the management of *Haj* operations and set up an Equal Opportunity Commission.

The Amendment Bill to the Land Acquisition Act and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill prepared to protect farmers and others dependent on farming from unfair displacement and which was placed before Parliament could not be carried through. It will be our endeavour to have these bills reintroduced and enacted in the Budget Session of Parliament.

My Government considerably enhanced provisions for social security through old age pension for all people below the poverty line and above 65 years of age, all handicapped people and all widows above the age of forty. It will examine extending social protection to other persons at special risk. Social security schemes for other occupations

like landless labour, weavers, fisherfolk, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, construction labour, mine workers and *beedi* workers will be appropriately expanded.

An area of major focus for my Government would be reform of governance for effective delivery of public services. Reports of the Administrative Reforms Commission would guide the effort. Reform of structures in the higher echelons of Government, increased decentralization, inclusion of women and youth in governance, process reform and public accountability would be key areas for focused action. As part of process reform, all proposals to the Cabinet will have to report on how the proposal under consideration will enhance the goals of equity or inclusion, innovation and public accountability.

My Government will initiate steps within the next hundred days on the following measures:

- Early passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament providing for one-third reservation to women in the State legislatures and in the Parliament;
- Constitutional amendment to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in *panchayats* and urban local bodies. Women suffer multiple deprivations of class, caste and gender and enhancing reservation in *panchayats* and urban local bodies will lead to more women entering the public sphere;
- Concerted effort to increase representation of women in central government jobs;
- A National Mission on Empowerment of Women for implementation of women-centric programmes in a mission mode to achieve better coordination;
- A voluntary national youth corps which could take up creative social action around the river cleaning and beautification programme beginning with the river Ganga;
- Restructuring the Backward Regions Grant Fund, which overlaps with other development investment, to focus on decentralized planning and capacity building of elected *panchayat* representatives. The next three years would be devoted to training *panchayat raj* functionaries in administering flagship programmes;
- A public data policy to place all information covering non-strategic areas in the public domain. It would help citizens to challenge the data and engage directly in governance reform;
- Increasing transparency and public accountability of NREGA by enforcing social audit and ensuring grievance redressal by setting up district level ombudsman;

- Strengthening Right to Information by suitably amending the law to provide for disclosure by Government in all non-strategic areas;
- Strengthening public accountability of flagship programmes by the creation of an Independent Evaluation Office at an arm's distance from the Government catalysed by the Planning Commission. It would work on a network model by collaborating with leading social science research organizations and concurrently evaluate the impact of flagship programmes and place it in the public domain;
- Establishing mechanisms for performance monitoring and performance evaluation in Government on a regular basis;
- Five Annual Reports to be presented by Government as Reports to the People on Education, Health, Employment, Environment and Infrastructure to generate a national debate;
- Facilitating a Voluntary Technical Corps of professionals in all urban areas through JNNURM to support city development activities;
- Enabling non government organisations in the area of development action seeking Government support through a web-based transaction on a Government portal in which the status of the application will be transparently monitorable;
- Provision of scholarships and social security schemes through accounts in post offices and banks and phased transition to smart cards;
- Revamping of banks and post offices to become outreach units for financial inclusion complemented by business correspondents aided by technology;
- Electronic governance through Bharat Nirman common service centres in all *panchayats* in the next three years;
- A model Public Services Law, that covers functionaries providing important social services like education, health, rural development etc. and commits them to their duties, will be drawn up in consultation with the States;
- A National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel;
- A National Council for Higher Education as recommended by the Yashpal Committee and the National Knowledge Commission to bring in reform of regulatory institutions;
- Develop a "brain gain" policy to attract talent from all

The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil arriving in procession to address members of Parliament on 4 June 2009

over the world into the 14 universities proposed in the 11th plan to position them as "Innovation Universities";

- A roadmap for judicial reform to be outlined in six months and implemented in a time-bound manner;
- Targeted identification cards would subsume and replace omnibus Below Poverty Line (BPL) list. NREGA has a job card and the proposed Food Security Act would also create a new card. Identification of beneficiaries for other programmes which currently use the omnibus BPL list would improve identification based on programme objectives with the common underlying principle that all identification of beneficiaries will be done through *gram sabhas* and urban local bodies and the list placed in the public domain to be open to challenge;
- A Delivery Monitoring Unit in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor flagship programmes and iconic projects and report on their status publicly;
- Suitably institutionalized quarterly reporting on Flagship programmes as "Bharat Nirman Quarterly Reports" where Ministers would publicly report on progress through the media.

Infrastructure is a fundamental enabler for a modern economy and infrastructure development will be a key focus area for the next five years. Public investment in infrastructure is of paramount importance. Bottlenecks and delays in implementation of infrastructure projects because of policies and procedures, especially in railways, power, highways, ports, airports and rural telecom will be systematically removed. Public-private partnership (PPP) projects are a key element of the strategy. A large number of PPP projects in different areas currently awaiting government approval would be cleared expeditiously. The regulatory and legal framework for PPPs would be made more investment friendly. My Government will continue its special emphasis on infrastructure development in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir and enhance connectivity to these regions.

Our fellow citizens have every right to own part of the shares of public sector companies while the Government retains majority shareholding and control. My Government will develop a roadmap for listing and people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51 per cent.

My Government is firmly committed to maintaining high growth with low inflation, particularly in relation to prices of essential agricultural and industrial commodities. It will steadfastly observe fiscal responsibility so that the ability of the Centre to invest in essential social and

economic infrastructure is continuously enhanced. This will require that all subsidies reach only the truly needy and poor sections of our society. A national consensus will be created on this issue and necessary policy changes implemented.

My Government has been able to significantly increase realization of direct taxes as a result of improved and simplified tax administration and this process will continue. The roadmap for moving towards a Goods and Services Tax will be vigorously pursued. My Government is fully seized of the issue of illegal money of Indian citizens outside the country in secret bank accounts. It will vigorously pursue all necessary steps in coordination with the countries concerned.

Coordinated action for energy would be guided by the integrated energy policy. The effort would be to see that at least 13,000 MW of generating capacity is added each year through a mix of sources - coal, hydel, nuclear and renewables. Village and rural household electrification and reduction in aggregate technical and commercial losses will continue to be given the highest priority. Competitiveness and efficiency in the power sector will be enhanced through time-bound measures, including operationalising the provision of open access.

The pace of oil and gas exploration will be intensified and India's oil diplomacy aggressively pursued. Reforms in the coal sector, for which a detailed blueprint has been prepared, will be pursued with urgency. The international civil nuclear agreements will be operationalised with various countries even as domestic sources of uranium are exploited and work continues on the indigenously designed fast breeder and thorium reactors.

My Government will ensure that our space programme which has achieved wide recognition continues to bring rich dividends to society in agriculture, tele-medicine, tele-education and by providing information to rural knowledge centres, besides contributing to telecommunication, television broadcasting and weather forecasting. Several innovative initiatives commenced by the Government in the science and technology sector in the last five years and now under implementation will be further strengthened.

My Government is proactively addressing issues of climate change through eight national missions. Of these the National Solar Mission, the National Water Mission, the National Mission on Energy Efficiency, the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat will be launched by the end of this year. The National Ganga River Basin Authority, set up recently will evolve a new action plan for cleaning and beautifying the river in partnership with the basin States.

My Government's foreign policy will continue to pursue India's enlightened national interest, maintaining the strategic autonomy and independent decision-making that has been its hallmark. India has a vital interest in the stability and prosperity of our neighbours. The highest priority will be accorded to working with our friends in SAARC to promote stability, development and prosperity in the region. Government will sincerely work with our neighbours to ensure that outstanding issues are addressed and the full potential of our region is realized.

My Government will seek to reshape our relationship with Pakistan depending on the sincerity of Pakistan's actions to confront groups who launch terrorist attacks against India from its territory. We will support initiatives in Sri Lanka, which can lead to a permanent political solution of the conflict there and ensure that all Sri Lankan communities, especially the Tamils, feel secure and enjoy equal rights so that they can lead a life of dignity and self-respect. India will make appropriate contribution to rehabilitate those affected by the conflict. In Nepal and Bangladesh, where multi-party democracy has returned, India will work closely with both countries to continue expanding bilateral ties for mutual benefit. Government will strengthen our close and vibrant partnerships with Bhutan and Maldives and continue to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The momentum of improvement of our relations with the major powers will be maintained. The transformation of our partnership with the United States of America will be taken forward. Our strategic partnership with Russia has grown over the years, and we will seek to further consolidate it. With countries of Europe and Japan my Government will continue the sustained diplomatic efforts, which have produced qualitative changes in our relations since 2004. The multi-faceted partnership with China will be expanded.

My Government will continue to work with other developing nations. It will contribute to all efforts at peace in West Asia through the establishment of a viable Palestinian State at the earliest. The traditionally close ties with countries in the Gulf will be strengthened. The process of engagement with Africa reenergized with the first Indo-Africa Summit organized by my Government will be further expanded. The multi-dimensional partnerships with countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific as well as Central Asia and the Latin American region will be consolidated.

The Indian diaspora estimated at over twenty-five million across the world is an important economic, social and cultural force and my Government will deepen its engagement with it. Our ties and kinship with the diaspora make us acutely conscious of their well-being and to be sensitive to their concerns. As a responsible member of the international community, India will work with other countries in tackling

issues of common concern such as international terrorism, the global economic crisis, climate change, energy security and reform of multilateral institutions to reflect contemporary realities.

Honourable members, my Government believes that in the knowledge society in which we live today, creativity, innovation and enterprise hold the key to people and nations realizing their potential. The "dreary desert sand of dead habit" must be left behind. Our young people are tearing down the narrow domestic walls of religion, region, language, caste, and gender that confine them. The nation must invest in their hope. My Government will ensure that its policies for education and science and technology are imbued with a spirit of innovation so that the creativity of a billion people is unleashed. The next ten years would be dedicated as a Decade of Innovation. It may be a symbolic gesture but an important gesture to drive home the need to be innovative in finding solutions to our many challenges. India's young population is naturally restless and wants to see change quickly. My Government carries the weight of their dreams. Together let us dedicate ourselves to making each day of the next five years, a day closer to the realization of their dreams.

Jai Hind

2

THE FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA: TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

The General Elections to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha held in April-May 2009, witnessed the biggest democratic exercise in the world. It conformed to the best democratic practices and traditions established in the country over the years.

Dissolution of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha: On 18 May 2009, the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, dissolved the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

Schedule for General Elections: The General Elections for constituting a new House of the People (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) were held in five phases, *i.e.* on 16, 23 and 30 April, 7 and 13 May 2009. Polling was held in peaceful atmosphere barring stray incidents.

Election results: The Indian National Congress (INC)-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) emerged as the largest alliance in the Fifteenth General Elections. The INC also emerged as the single largest party, followed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). (For party position in the Lok Sabha, *see* Table.)

Constitution of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha: On 18 May 2009, the Fifteenth Lok Sabha was constituted with the Election Commission issuing a notification under Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Prime Minister sworn in: On 22 May 2009, Dr. Manmohan Singh was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the second consecutive term. Along with him, members of his Council of Ministers also took oath of office. The Council of Ministers and their portfolios (as on 14 June 2009) are as under:

Dr. Manmohan Singh: *Prime Minister and Department of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions; Planning; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space* and *Ministry of Culture* and also in-charge of the Ministries/Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any Minister.

Cabinet Ministers: Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, *Finance;* Sharad

Pawar, *Agriculture* and *Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution;* A.K. Antony, *Defence;* P. Chidambaram, *Home Affairs;* S.M. Krishna, *External Affairs;* Virbhadra Singh, *Steel;* Vilasrao Deshmukh, *Heavy Industries* and *Public Enterprises;* Ghulam Nabi Azad, *Health* and *Family Welfare;* Sushilkumar Shinde, *Power;* M. Veerappa Moily, *Law* and *Justice;* S. Jaipal Reddy, *Urban Development;* Kamal Nath, *Road Transport* and *Highways;* Vayalar Ravi, *Overseas Indian Affairs;* Dayanidhi Maran, *Textiles;* A. Raja, *Communications* and *Information Technology;* Murli Deora, *Petroleum* and *Natural Gas;* Mallikarjun Kharge, *Labour* and *Employment;* Kapil Sibal, *Human Resource Development;* B.K. Handique, *Mines* and *Development of North Eastern Region;* Anand Sharma, *Commerce* and *Industry;* C.P. Joshi, *Rural Development* and *Panchayati Raj;* Subodh Kant Sahay, *Food Processing Industries;* G.K. Vasan, *Shipping;* Pawan Kumar Bansal, *Parliamentary Affairs* and *Water Resources;* Mukul Wasnik, *Social Justice* and *Empowerment;* Kantilal Bhuria, *Tribal Affairs;* M.K. Alagiri, *Chemicals* and *Fertilizers;* Dr. Farooq Abdullah, *New* and *Renewable Energy;* Dr. M.S. Gill, *Youth Affairs* and *Sports;* Smt. Ambika Soni, *Information* and *Broadcasting;* Kumari Mamata Banerjee, *Railways;* and Kumari Selja, *Housing* and *Urban Poverty Alleviation* and *Tourism.*

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Sarvashri Praful Patel, *Civil Aviation;* Prithviraj Chavan, *Science* and *Technology; Earth Sciences; Minister of State in* the *Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in* the *Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances* and *Pensions;* and *Minister of State in* the *Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs;* Shriprakash Jaiswal, *Coal* and *Statistics* and *Programme Implementation;* Salman Khursheed, *Corporate Affairs* and *Minority Affairs;* Dinsha J. Patel, *Micro, Small* and *Medium Enterprises;* Jairam Ramesh, *Environment* and *Forests;* and Smt. Krishna Tirath, *Women* and *Child Development.*

Ministers of State: Sarvashri Srikant Jena, *Chemicals* and *Fertilizers;* E. Ahamed, *Railways;* Mullappally Ramachandran, *Home Affairs;* V. Narayanasamy, *Planning* and *Parliamentary Affairs;* Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, *Commerce* and *Industry;* K.H. Muniappa, *Railways;* Ajay Maken, *Home Affairs;* Namo Narain Meena, *Finance;* M.M. Pallam Raju, *Defence;* Saugata Ray, *Urban Development;* S.S. Palanimanickam, *Finance;* Jitin Prasada, *Petroleum* and *Natural Gas;* A. Sai Prathap, *Steel;* Gurudas Kamat, *Communications* and *Information Technology;* Harish Rawat, *Labour* and *Employment;* K.V. Thomas, *Agriculture* and *Consumer Affairs, Food* and *Public Distribution;* Bharatsinh Solanki, *Power;* Mahadev S. Khandela, *Road Transport* and *Highways;* Dinesh Trivedi, *Health* and *Family Welfare;* Sisir Adhikari, *Rural Development;* Sultan Ahmed,

Tourism; Mukul Roy, *Shipping;* Choudhury Mohan Jatua, *Information* and *Broadcasting;* D. Napoleon, *Social Justice* and *Empowerment;* S. Jagathrakshakan, *Information* and *Broadcasting;* S. Gandhiselvan, *Health* and *Family Welfare;* Tusharbhai Chaudhary, *Tribal Affairs;* Sachin Pilot, *Communications* and *Information Technology;* Arun Yadav, *Heavy Industries* and *Public Enterprises;* Pratik Prakashbapu Patil, *Youth Affairs* and *Sports;* R.P.N. Singh, *Road Transport* and *Highways;* Shashi Tharoor, *External Affairs;* Vincent Pala, *Water Resources;* Pradeep Jain, *Rural Development;* Smt. D. Purandeswari, *Human Resource Development;* Smt. Preneet Kaur, *External Affairs;* Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi, *Textiles;* and Kumari Agatha Sangma, *Rural Development.*

Leader of Opposition: The Leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani, was recognized as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, with effect from 22 May 2009.

Vacation of Office by the Speaker of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha: Shri Somnath Chatterjee vacated the office of the Speaker of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha immediately before the first sitting of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha on 1 June 2009, in accordance with the second proviso to article 94 of the Constitution of India.

First Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha: The First Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 1 June 2009 with the Speaker *pro tem* Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit administering oath or affirmation to the newly-elected members. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 9 June 2009. The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, prorogued the House on 12 June 2009. There were seven sittings in all during the Session.

Speaker Pro tem: On 1 June 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, appointed Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, as the Speaker *Pro tem* in exercise of the powers conferred upon her by clause (1) of article 95 of the Constitution of India. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit performed the duties of the Office till the Speaker was elected on 3 June 2009.

Panel of Chairmen: The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, *vide* an order dated 29 May 2009, appointed Sarvashri Basudeb Acharia, Arjun Charan Sethi, Biren Singh Engti and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan as persons before any of whom members of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha could make and subscribe oath or affirmation in accordance with the provisions of article 99 of the Constitution of India.

Under rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business

in Lok Sabha, the Speaker *pro tem* Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit nominated the above-mentioned members to the Panel of Chairmen on 1 June 2009.

Vacation of seat: On 1 June 2009, the Speaker *Pro tem* informed the House that the then Speaker had received a letter dated 21 May 2009, from Shri Akhilesh Yadav, an elected member from Firozabad and Kannauj Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha from the Firozabad Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh and his resignation had been accepted by the Speaker with effect from 26 May 2009.

Election of Speaker: In pursuance of sub-rule (1) of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the President fixed 3 June 2009, for holding the election to the office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The members were accordingly informed of the procedure and programme thereof through the Lok Sabha *Bulletin Part-II* on 28 May 2009. Members were required to give notices of motions for the election in the prescribed form before noon on 2 June 2009.

Eleven notices of motion were received by the time prescribed for the purpose. All of them proposed the name of Smt. Meira Kumar, a member of the Indian National Congress. All the motions were found to be in order and were included in the *List of Business* for 3 June 2009. Ballot was held to determine the *inter se* priority in respect of the notices which were received at the same point of time. On 3 June 2009, when the item was taken up, the Speaker *pro tem*, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, who was in the Chair, called upon Smt. Sonia Gandhi to move the motion standing in her name.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi then moved the Motion "that Shrimati Meira Kumar, a member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House." The Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee seconded the motion. Ten other motions proposing the name of Smt. Meira Kumar were also moved. The motion moved by Smt. Sonia Gandhi and seconded by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, was put to the vote of the House and Smt. Meira Kumar was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha*.

*Address by the President***: On 4 June 2009, the President,

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* For details of the election of the Speaker, *see* Short Note, "The Election of the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha", pp.325-337

** For the text of the Address by the President, *see* Feature "Address by the President to Parliament", pp.305-318

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 8 June 2009, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani moved the Motion "That Shri Kariya Munda, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House." Shri Rajnath Singh, seconded the motion. Eight other motions, proposing the name of Shri Kariya Munda, were moved. The motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani and seconded by Shri Rajnath Singh was adopted unanimously and Shri Kariya Munda was chosen as the Deputy Speaker***.

TABLE

PARTY POSITION IN THE FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA
(As on 26 May 2009)

	Name of the Party	*No. of Seats*
1.	Indian National Congress	206
2.	Bharatiya Janata Party	116
3.	Samajwadi Party	22
4.	Bahujan Samaj Party	21
5.	Janata Dal (United)	20
6.	All India Trinamool Congress	19
7.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18
8.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	16
9.	Biju Janata Dal	14
10.	Shiv Sena	11
11.	Nationalist Congress Party	9
12.	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	9
13.	Telugu Desam	6
14.	Rashtriya Lok Dal	5
15.	Communist Party of India	4
16.	Shiromani Akali Dal	4
17.	Rashtriya Janata Dal	4
18.	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	3

***For details of the election of the Speaker, *see* Short Note, "The Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha", pp.338-345

19.	Janata Dal (Secular)	3
20.	All India Forward Bloc	2
21	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2
22.	Muslim League Kerala State Committee	2
23.	Revolutionary Socialist Party	2
24.	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	2
25.	All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1
26.	Asom Gana Parishad	1
27.	Assam United Democratic Front	1
28.	Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	1
29.	Bodoland Peoples Front	1
30.	Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	1
31.	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)	1
32.	Kerala Congress (M)	1
33.	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1
34.	Nagaland Peoples Front	1
35.	Sikkim Democratic Front	1
36.	Swabhimani Paksha	1
37.	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	1
38.	Independents	9
39.	Vacancy*	1
	Total	543

* Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh) *vice* Shri Akhilesh Yadav (resigned *w.e.f.* 26 May 2009)

3

THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA*

Under the provisions of article 93 of the Constitution, the Lok Sabha chooses one of its members to be the Speaker thereof, in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 7 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha*. The Speaker is elected by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

The Fifteenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 18 May 2009. The newly constituted House met for the first time on 1 June 2009. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, appointed Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, as the Speaker *Pro tem* in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by clause (1) of article 95 of the Constitution of India. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit performed the duties of the Speaker and presided over the sittings of the Lok Sabha on 1, 2 and 3 June 2009 and until the commencement of the sitting of the House on 3 June 2009, in which the election of the Speaker was held.

The date for holding the election to the office of the Speaker was fixed as 3 June 2009. The members were accordingly informed of the procedure and programme thereof through the Lok Sabha *Bulletin Part-II* on 28 May 2009.

Members were required to give notices of motions for the election in the prescribed form before noon on 2 June 2009.

Eleven notices of motions were received by the prescribed time. All of them proposed the name of Smt. Meira Kumar. All the motions were found to be in order and were included in the *List of Business* for 3 June 2009. Ballot was held to determine the *inter se* priority in respect of the notices which were received at the same point of time.

On 3 June 2009, when the item was taken up, the Speaker *pro tem*, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, who was in the Chair, called upon Smt. Sonia Gandhi to move the motion standing in her name.

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* Compiled by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS)

Smt. Sonia Gandhi then moved the motion "That Shrimati Meira Kumar, member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House". The Leader of the House and Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, seconded the motion. Later, the ten other motions were also moved. Subsequently, the motion moved by Smt. Sonia Gandhi was put to the vote of the House and was unanimously adopted and Smt. Meira Kumar was chosen as the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The Speaker *pro tem* Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit then invited Smt. Meira Kumar to occupy the Chair.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani conducted Smt. Meira Kumar to the Chair.

Smt. Meira Kumar was warmly felicitated on her election to the office of the Speaker by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of various Parties and Groups in the Lok Sabha. At the end, the Speaker replied to the felicitations.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh on his own behalf, on behalf of the people of India and the Government, felicitated Smt. Meira Kumar on her unanimous election to the constitutional office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. He termed the election as historic, as for the first time a woman member that too belonging to the *dalit* community was elected as the Speaker of the House. It was also a tribute to womanhood of our country, he added. Remembering on the occasion Babu Jagjivan Ram, Smt. Kumar's illustrious father whose wisdom, knowledge and experience were great assets for any Government, Dr. Singh said Smt. Kumar possessed the same quality of head and heart as the late Babuji had and her experience as a distinguished diplomat, parliamentarian for more than 25 years and as a Union Minister would stand her in good stead in dealing with issues that come up before the House. The Prime Minister felt that the charm, the grace and the tact of which Smt. Meira Kumar is the embodiment, would also help in calming down frayed tempers which sometimes happen in the House. The Prime Minister assured her the fullest cooperation in discharging her onerous duties.

On behalf of the Government and in his capacity as the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar on her unanimous election to the office of Speaker. He opined that her long standing in the Parliament and in the Government would be useful to her in discharging responsibilities bestowed on her. He assured her cooperation on behalf of the Government and on behalf

of his party, the Indian National Congress, in creating a new precedence of debates and discussions, from every angle. He believed that the inheritance of administrative qualities of her great father, Babu Jagjivan Ram, and her personal acumen would assist her in performing the responsibilities with impartiality and judiciousness.

Congratulating Smt. Meira Kumar, the Leader of the Opposition Shri L.K. Advani expressed hope that Smt. Meira Kumar shall be in a position to carry on her new responsibility successfully with the help of the qualities she inherited from her respected father who had great administrative capability. He wished that the Fifteenth Lok Sabha would function in an efficient manner under her guidance and that she shall be able to discharge her responsibility adroitly.

Shri Basudeb Acharia [Communist Party of India (Marxist)] congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar, on behalf of his party and on behalf of the entire Left Groups, and assured her all cooperation. He felt that Smt. Meira Kumar would protect the interests of the members of all sections of the House, act as a friend, a philosopher and a guide and all the members would get the opportunity to ventilate their grievances. He further hoped that with her becoming the Speaker, 33 per cent representation to women in the Legislature would see the light of the day.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar, and said that her election was a historic moment as for the first time a woman was elected to the post of Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He hoped that she would give more weightage to views expressed by the Opposition parties and due protection would be given to them and all members would be in a position to present the problems of the people of the country in a better manner.

The Minister of Railways and All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) Leader Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that in Smt. Meira Kumar election, the country witnessed beauty of our democracy that all the people fully supported her unanimously. On behalf of the AITC, she assured full cooperation to her with full solidarity.

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi (Biju Janata Dal) falicitated Smt. Meira Kumar on her assuming the office of Speaker and assured his wholehearted support and cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House and its Committees. He said that being the illustrious daughter of an illustrious and distinguished parliamentarian, late Jagjivan Ramji, history would always remember her as the first woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Her election represented the inclusive voice of the nation and of the House, particularly those belonging to the vulnerable

and marginalized stratum of the society. Having been elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth time, Smt. Meira Kumar has espoused and articulated the hopes and aspirations of the people, he added.

Shri T.R. Baalu (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar and said that her occupying the exalted position of the temple of democracy, the Indian Parliament, would send the right signal and proper message to *dalits* of India and especially the women folk of India. He assured cooperation to the newly elected Speaker in every respect.

Shri Chandrakant Khaire (Shiv Sena) described Smt. Meira Kumar as an illustrious daughter of an illustrious and distinguished parliamentarian, late Jagjivan Ramji who had done a lot for the nation. Her elevation to the exalted position of the temple of democracy showed the power of womenfolk. Shri Khaire assured wholehearted support and cooperation to Smt. Meira Kumar.

Dr. M. Thambidurai (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) welcomed the election of Smt. Meira Kumar, the first woman Speaker elected to the post since independence. He described Smt. Meira Kumar as a friend, philosopher and a guide who would strive to improve the quality of debate, discussion and the content of legislative outcome of proceedings. He expected that she would do justice to all sections of the House without any bias and prejudice, and would be considerate towards the Opposition parties by way of giving more time and opportunities to raise issues concerning the common man. Shri Thambidurai assured unstinted support and fullest cooperation to her in maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House.

Congratulating Smt. Meira Kumar on her unanimous election, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Nationalist Congress Party Leader Shri Sharad Pawar expressed hope that she would carry on the legacy of her great father Babu Jagjivan Ram Ji, who brought Green Revolution in the country. He assured fullest cooperation to the newly elected Speaker.

Shri Sharad Yadav [Janata Dal (United)] felicitated Smt. Meira Kumar on her unanimous election and expressed hope that the House under her guidance would function in favour of the people of the country and meaningful and constructive discussions would be held.

Shri Nama Nageswara Rao (Telugu Desam Party) expressed happiness that a *Dalit* woman has been elected to the office of Speaker. He hoped that Smt. Meira Kumar would give full opportunity to the new

young members and expected that sufficient opportunities would be given to the members of Opposition parties to express their constructive suggestions and views.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (Communist Party of India) wholeheartedly lauded the unanimous election of Smt. Meira Kumar as a new chapter in the history of Indian parliamentary system. He described it as the truthful recognition of the role that the Indian womanhood had been playing in the social life of India. Under her leadership, the right of criticism, the right of presenting the individual views and the right to express opposition to the policies will be respected and protected and believed that there would be longer sessions of the Indian Parliament.

Shri Lalu Prasad (Rashtriya Janata Dal) welcomed the unanimous election of Smt. Meira Kumar as the Speaker and said that it was something good that the principles of social justice were being followed in the matter of appointment at the higher offices. He expressed hope that under her guardianship, smaller parties would get full opportunity to participate in the debates and give constructive suggestions.

Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala (Shiromani Akali Dal) described Smt. Meira Kumar's election to the office of Speaker as a victory of the oppressed and the marginalized. He hoped that she would give equal opportunity to all sections of the House.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways and Muslim League Kerala State Committee Leader Shri E. Ahamed described Smt. Meira Kumar's election as historic moment and expressed the hope that she would keep in mind the grievances of *Dalits,* Backward Classes and Minorities while discharging her duties.

Shri Sharifud-Din Shariq (Jammu and Kashmir National Conference) said that by elevating a woman to the highest office as Speaker, all the mothers, sisters and daughters of India have been honoured. The issues concerning the poor people would receive priority under her guidance, he hoped.

Former Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda [Janata Dal (Secular)] congratulated her and hoped that all sections in the House would cooperate with her in maintaining the decency, decorum and honour of the House.

Shri Aşaduddin Owaisi (All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen) described Smt. Meira Kumar's unanimous election as a historic moment

and hoped that the Speaker would give opportunities to small parties to express their opinions.

Shri Inder Singh Namdhari (Independent) urged upon Smt. Meira Kumar to conduct the business of the House at her discretion so that the House functions smoothly.

Dr. Bali Ram (Bahujan Samaj Party) congratulated Smt. Meira Kumar on her unanimous election and said that the entire country, particularly the weaker sections, were jubilant and these groups have high expectations from her.

Accepting the felicitations, Smt. Meira Kumar said:

> I am grateful to honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the House, honourable Leader of Opposition, honourable Chairperson of UPA, honourable Leaders of parties and groups in the House and all the honourable members for electing me unanimously to the office of Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It is an unprecedented event. This House has created a history by electing a woman to the office of the Speaker for the first time in its 57 years long life and thus, set a shining standard. I am overwhelmed by the niceties just expressed in the House by the leaders of various parties. I am also overwhelmed by the beautiful words you have spoken in my praise. I have no words to express my gratitude for the same. I am obliged. I humbly accept the honour you have bestowed on me.
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> My hearty congratulations to you all on being elected to the 15th Lok Sabha. The nation has entrusted this august representative body with the solemn responsibility to determine the destiny of more than hundred crore people belonging to one of the ancient civilizations and the biggest democracy of the world to this greatest representative body.
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> And now you have entrusted me the solemn responsibility of holding the office of Speaker of this august representative body. I feel proud and humbled by the unflinching faith you have reposed in me. On being elected Speaker, it is my first and foremost duty to serve the House according to the Indian Constitution, rules and conventions rising above various political ideologies and affiliations. In fact, this is a service to the nation, because this House is a microcosm of India.
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> Honourable members, when I was a school child, I witnessed many times from the visitors' gallery as to how the stalwarts of our freedom struggle took decisions in the interest of the people of this country, especially those who are *dalit*, deprived, weak and marginalized. Those were the leaders who were

Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar

guided by the passion to sacrifice their all for the country and who laid the foundation of high traditions of allegiance and discipline in the House. When for the first time in 1985, I came here as a Lok Sabha member, I sat on one of the rear seats. Sitting there was a pleasure itself. From there, I could view the scene of the entire House but I could hardly be noticed by other honourable members. That time, many learned and eloquent orators were present there and I listened to their speeches with rapt attention. Honourable members, I hereby pledge that I will leave no stone unturned to uphold the dignity of the House and honour of honourable members. I am well acquainted with the ideals of my reputed predecessors, right from Shri Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar to Shri Somnath Chatterjee who had observed the great conventions of this House. They have enhanced the dignity of the office of Speaker, thereby glorifying the prestige of this august House. I shall continue my endeavours to take initiatives and explore better methodology to enrich this valuable legacy of this great institution.

The House of people is the reflection of the aspirations of the people of the country. Mahatma Gandhi had once said "Power resides in the people, and it is entrusted for the time being to those whom they may choose as their representatives. The members of Parliament have no power and existence independently of the people". We must understand properly what our electorate expects of us. They want that we should present their concerns and apprehensions effectively in the House and frame laws as need arises. Therefore, we must discuss and debate and even express our dissent if necessary, but that too with decency and without disrupting the proceedings of the House. There may be some sections of persons in the House who hold that stalling the proceedings of the House is the only way to express their dissent in an effective manner. No countryman would ever like the proceedings of the Parliament to be stalled for raising issues concerning him in the House. In fact, many devices are available to honourable members to raise problems of the people and their concerns in the House. If we use these devices effectively, we can transform the House into a useful forum for deliberations.

The people have given clear mandate in favour of stability and good governance despite the speculations of fractured mandate and hung Lok Sabha. In the Westminster system that we have been following, the Executive is a part of Parliament and it is always accountable to it. The dexterity of the members lies in the fact how capable they are in keeping the Executive always

alert without hampering the functioning of Parliament or Executive. The interruptions in the proceedings of the Parliament, do not allow achievements and omissions and commissions of the Government to be reviewed and the principle of the Democracy demands that this should not happen.

The people expect good governance from us. It should be our endeavour to come up to their expectations notwithstanding whether we belong to the treasury benches or the Opposition. We should draw inspiration from the founding father of Indian Parliamentary Democracy, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, according to whom democracy implied having tolerance and respect for those who agree or disagree with us. Constructive co-operation of all the honourable members of the House is necessary for ensuring good governance in the second most populous country of the world. The people of the country have pinned great hopes in you and I believe that you will leave no stone unturned in your endeavour to uplift their lives.

It is perceived that a member of Parliament represents his constituency, party and, of course, his conscience in the House, but what is significant is that owing to our taking oath in the name of Constitution, we represent the country as a whole which is an excellent example of the country's unity, integrity and sovereignty. You may face a situation during your tenure as a member when these diverse roles will clash with each other. In such a situation, our commitment to the Constitution should be paramount over our other duties. Then alone can the House function smoothly. A mature member of Parliament is one who can successfully come out of such a dilemma with the help of his common sense, knowledge and sharp mental faculties. I am sure that there is no dearth of such Parliamentarians amongst us.

Honourable members, as you all are aware that this general election has been peculiar in the sense that the youth of the country were aware of the value of their votes and came out in droves to the polling booths to exercise their franchise. It should remain our priority to fulfill the hopes and expectations of the young India. Since youth are curious and impatient by nature, which they should be, there is a need to undertake this work as soon as possible. We shall have to bring home to them the fact that we are conscious and aware of their hopes and aspirations and would focus all our efforts to fulfill them. It gives me great pleasure to note that young Parliamentarians have registered their conspicuous presence amongst the 302 newly elected members. We should boost their morale so that they could provide their able leadership to the country. We

have among us several seasoned parliamentarians having rich experience of parliamentary life and distinct political background. I would like to request them to pay special attention to apprising the newly elected parliamentarians of the parliamentary conventions and democratic conduct. I would also want all the members to be regularly attending the House.

It is a matter of happiness for me that the Lok Sabha, of which I have the honour of presiding over, has 58 women parliamentarians their largest number so far in the House. This proves that the Indian woman can no longer wait for her emancipation from social shackles for achieving equal opportunities of progress. Two years ago we sent auspicious message to the villages across the country and to the international arena by electing the first woman President of the country. Now by electing the first woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha, we have reiterated our intention that we are the votary of women empowerment not only through our words but also are committed for implementing it at the ground level. I strongly wish that by carrying forward this sequence, this House will now onwards be unanimous in matters of women empowerment.

Honourable members, now the time is ripe for us to try and resolve the social and economic challenges before the nation by putting the heat and dust of electoral battle aside. The world is going through a phase of unprecedented economic recession. Apparently, this crisis is global In nature and our country is not isolated to it. The moot point is how we can pave the way for the country on the path of progress despite this global economic slowdown.

This should be a cause of our national concern so that we could unanimously try to find solution to these problems. It is high time that we adopted national perspective by rising above party lines and considerations.

Though we have made considerable progress in the last more than six decades yet we would all agree that we still have a long way to go so that we can establish an egalitarian society bereft of religions, castes or social inequalities. The freedom that we have today cannot be called real freedom as it is merely political freedom. It is meaningless for very large number of people–majority of whom belong to Schedules Castes, Schedules Tribes–unless we raise their standard of living, alleviate their poverty, provide them food, clothing and housing and free them from every kind of exploitations, injustice and oppression and also provide them equal opportunities for their all-round development. This social task is to be accomplished

in the full measure. There cannot be a greater reward than the satisfaction that you have done your duty to the nation. This is the mandate that the people have given to each one of us by electing us to Lok Sabha.

Honourable members, your participation and involvement is very important to run the House as smoothly as possible. Therefore, it is my request to all, the seniors and newcomers to extend cooperation to the chair as per the parliamentary conventions and enable me to discharge my constitutional responsibilities as bestowed upon me by the House. I can assure you that every section of the House will receive my attention in ample measure. I would also like to assure that I will neither be biased to the Opposition nor I would give any reason to the treasury benches to complain. The media is a strong pillar of our parliamentary system and it plays a pivotal role not only in the dissemination of information, but also in spreading political awareness. If disruptions do occur, the media is duty bound to report such incidents to the public but at the same time I would urge the media to also highlight the substantial quantum of good work done by the members of Parliament.

I am extremely indebted to the entire House for the goodwill shown to me. I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the House, honourable Leader of Opposition, honourable leader of the UPA, honourable Leaders of Groups and Parties and all the honourable members for their kind words of appreciation and support. It shall be my endeavor to do full justice to the confidence you all have reposed in me.

I also take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the *pro tem* Speaker Shri Manikrao Gavitji for dignified and smooth conduct of the House during the last three days.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat is known as a most efficient organization and it is famous for its commitment to duty even under trying circumstances. I am sure that I would get unstinted cooperation of the officers and staff of the Secretariat in conducting the smooth functioning of the House.

I would like to conclude by saying that this is not an ordinary House, it is a divine place. It is the temple of our great democracy. Let us all vow to dedicate ourselves by heart, words and deeds to serve the democracy which is the spirit of India.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR – A BRIEF PROFILE

The success of Parliament as a representative body largely depends on the strength of dialogue and acceptance of dignified dissent. In our country, it is the institution of Speaker that symbolizes the traditions of parliamentary democracy and ensures that the House of People, *i.e.* the Lok Sabha, performs its multifarious tasks in tune with the genuine hopes and aspirations of the people. The Speaker is a friend, philosopher and guide to the members of Parliament. As the rulings of the Speaker constitute precedents, independence and impartiality are the two cardinal attributes of this august office. Being the repository of the confidence of all sections of the House, the Speaker has the solemn duty to be fair-minded, non-partisan and objective in the conduct of the debates and exercise of powers.

Over the years, the institution of the Speaker has grown from strength to strength. The great visionaries from Shri G.V. Mavalankar to Shri Somnath Chatterjee have nurtured the coveted office of the Speaker with healthy and sound democratic precedents. In the year 2009, a new chapter was added to the glorious history of our Parliament with the election of Smt. Meira Kumar as the First Woman Speaker of Lok Sabha. It was a historic moment for Indian democracy as for the first time in the history of Lok Sabha, a woman was unanimously elected to one of the highest constitutional positions of the country.

Smt. Meira Kumar was born on 31 March 1945 in Patna, Bihar, to Late Babu Jagjivan Ram, an illustrious personality of Indian polity and Smt. Indrani Devi, a social worker and author of many books. She completed her LL.B and earlier M.A. in English from the University of Delhi. She also has Advanced Diploma in Spanish to her credit. Smt. Kumar holds a distinction of being proficient in many languages such as English, Spanish, Hindi, Sanskrit, and Bhojpuri. Smt. Meira Kumar is married to Shri Manjul Kumar, a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India. They are blessed with one son and two daughters.

A passionate believer of value-based public life, one finds in Smt. Meira Kumar an intellect of great substance with deep and thorough understanding of multiple facets of Indian polity. With a high level of commitment to human rights and social reforms, she as the Chairperson of National Drought Relief Committee of the Congress Party, launched a *Family Adoption Scheme* during the Century's worst drought in 1967, resulting in adoption of various drought-affected families by the affluent. After joining the Indian Foreign Service in

1973, she served in the Embassy of India in Madrid, High Commission of India, U.K. and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Smt. Kumar made her political debut in 1985 when she was elected to the 8th Lok Sabha in a bye-election from Bijnor in the State of Uttar Pradesh. She represented the constituency of Karol Bagh in Delhi twice during her membership of the 11th and 12th Lok Sabha. In the year 2004, she had the privilege of getting elected to the 14th Lok Sabha with a record margin from Sasaram, Bihar, a constituency held by her late father Babu Jagjivan Ram for 50 years. She was once again elected from Sasaram to the 15th Lok Sabha in 2009. Smt. Meira Kumar is amongst the handful of leaders to have won the Lok Sabha elections from three different States.

Smt. Meira Kumar has inherited the great legacy of Babu Jagjivan Ram, whose wisdom and administrative acumen were great assets for any Government. Her meteoric rise from a career diplomat to that of a seasoned parliamentarian is attributed to her unique style and ability to comprehend the problems and issues of the masses and address them in the right earnest. Within a span of 25 years of her foray into the political arena, she has carved out a niche for herself as a staunch votary of a secular, democratic and modern India. A firm believer of an egalitarian society, Smt. Meira Kumar has always been vociferous in her views on the empowerment of women, abolition of caste system and upliftment of dalit community. Blessed with rare wit and open-mindedness, she has adopted democracy as a way of life. Never compromising on her values, she elevated parliamentary politics to greater heights by enriching parliamentary proceedings and the working of various Committees with her exceptional oratorical skill and persuasive power. Highly committed to the best traditions of parliamentary functioning, she earned the admiration of parliamentary fraternity for her high standards of behaviour and respect for dignity and decorum of Parliament.

Throughout her political career, Smt. Meira Kumar served on several Parliamentary Committees as an active member. She played a distinctive role in strengthening the Consultative Committee, Ministry of External Affairs in 1986-89 and 1996-98; Public Accounts Committee during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98; Joint Committee on the Empowerment of Women and its Sub-Committee on Education and Health Programmes for Women in 1998-99; and Committee on Home Affairs and its Sub-Committee on Personnel Policy of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) for the year 1998-99. She also shouldered onerous responsibilities in the Government, gracing senior positions, including that of the Union

Cabinet Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment in 2004-2009. She was Union Cabinet Minister for Water Resources before her nomination for the office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. She was unanimously elected to the office of the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 3 June 2009. Smt. Meira Kumar has travelled extensively to various parts of the world.

The life of Smt. Meira Kumar may be encapsulated as a selfless quest for a just and fair society. It is her relentless passion for the values of *equality and justice* that lead her towards ensuring socio-economic equity and freedom to weaker sections of the society from all types of hardship, exploitation and oppression. She had been associated with (i) All India Samta Movement (also its Founder), 1990, (ii) RVAKV Society Delhi (Institute of Blind Girls), 1992-98, (iii) Ravidas Smarak Society, Varanasi, 2000-06, and (iv) Jagjivan Seva Ashram, Sasaram 2002-May 2009; Chairperson, (i) Meera Kala Mandir, Udaipur, 2000-May 2009, (ii) Jagjivan Ram Sanatorium, Dehri-on-Sone, 2002-06, and (iii) Rajendra Bhawan Trust, Delhi, 2000-May 2009; Managing Trustee, Jagjivan Ashram Trust, Delhi, 1985-2004; Member, (i) Senate, Bihar University, 1969-71, (ii) Supreme Court Bar Association, 1980, (iii) Senate, Punjab University, 1987-91, (iv) Governing Body, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (I.C.C.R.), 1987-92, (v) Central Advisory Board of Education, 1987-90 and 2004, (vi) Court of University of Delhi, 1996-98, (vii) Advisory Council, Delhi Development Authority, 1998-99, (viii) Court of Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1996-98, (ix) Rajghat Samadhi Committee, 1998-99.

Smt. Meira Kumar's personality is a splendid blend of artistic and poetic tastes. Her literary and artistic accomplishments include painting and writing poems. She is an ardent lover of rifle shooting and horse riding. She is also a Member of: (i) India International Centre, New Delhi; (ii) India Habitat Centre, New Delhi; and (iii) National Sports Club of India, New Delhi. Her special recreational activities range from reading to listening Indian classical music to visiting old monuments and Indian Textiles and Crafts.

Smt. Meira Kumar's unanimous election to the coveted office of the Speaker creates a new hope towards fulfillment of the principle of equality as enshrined in the Constitution of India. It also establishes that empowerment of women and the disadvantaged sections is one of the primary concerns that India is determined to address. This raises the hopes of the deprived sections of the society and sends a strong message about the commitment of the Indian political system towards addressing all the issues pertaining to women and the marginalized sections of the society.

THE ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA*

Under the provisions of article 93 of the Constitution, the Lok Sabha chooses one of its members to be the Deputy Speaker thereof, in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 8 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.* The Deputy Speaker is elected by a simple majority of the members present and voting in the House.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, fixed 8 June 2009 as the date for holding of the election to the office of the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The members were accordingly informed of the procedure and programme thereof through the Lok Sabha *Bulletin Part-II* on 4 June 2009. Members were required to give notices of motion for the election of the Deputy Speaker in the prescribed form before 15.15 hours on 5 June 2009. The item 'Election of Deputy Speaker' was included in the List of Business of 8 June 2009.

On 8 June 2009 when the item was taken up, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, who was in the Chair, called upon Shri L.K. Advani to move the motion standing in his name. Accordingly, Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani moved the motion, "that Shri Kariya Munda, a member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House". Shri Rajnath Singh seconded the motion. The other identical motions at Sl. Nos. 2 to 9 were also moved in favour of Shri Kariya Munda to be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

The motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani and seconded by Shri Rajnath Singh was then put to vote of the House and was unanimously adopted. The Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar then declared that Shri Kariya Munda was chosen as the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The Deputy Speaker was later conducted to his seat by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the

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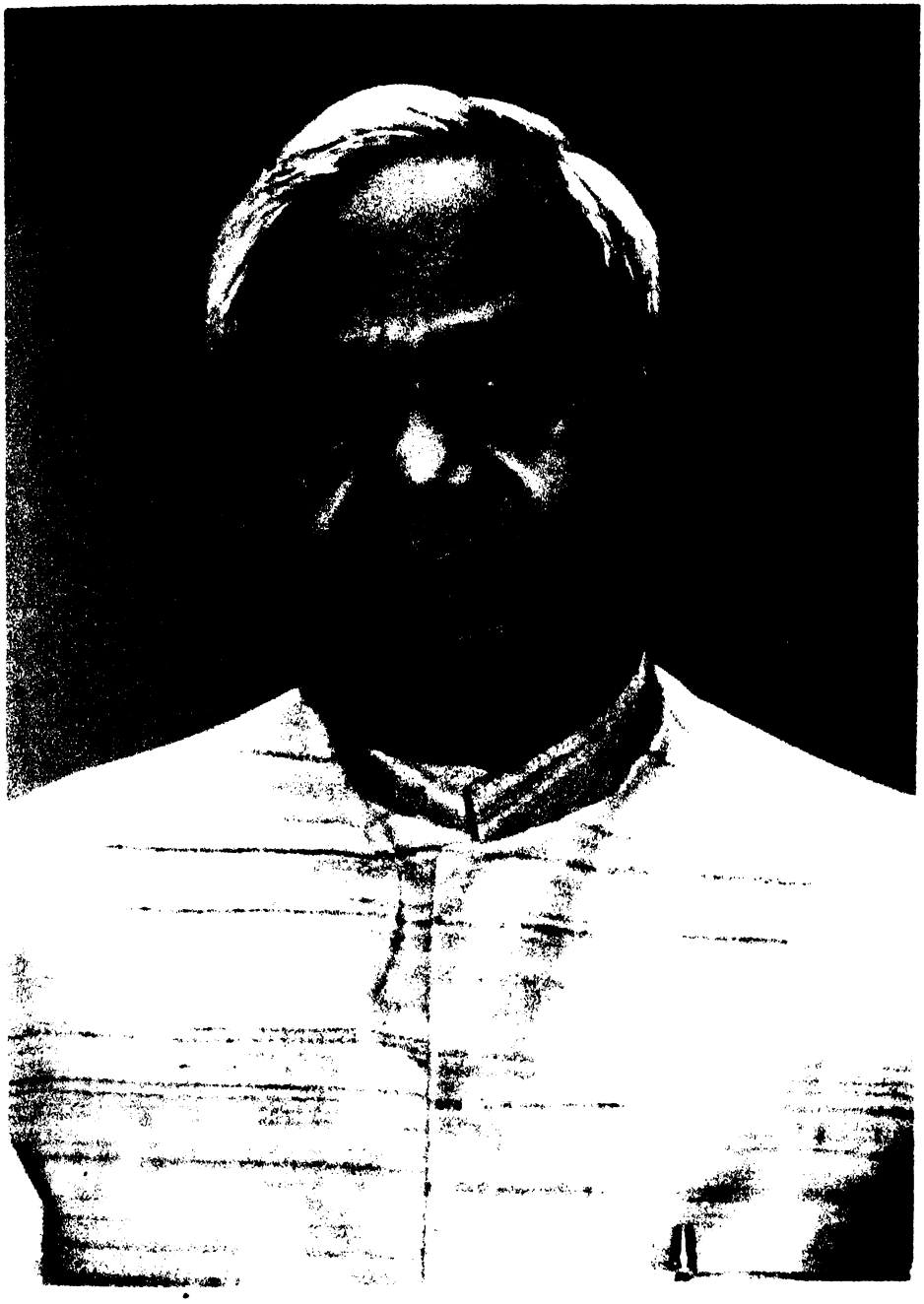
* Compiled by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS)



Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Kariya Munda

House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani.

Shri Kariya Munda was warmly felicitated on his election to the Office of the Deputy Speaker by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of Parties and Groups. At the end, the Deputy Speaker replied to the felicitations.

Congratulating Shri Kariya Munda, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the unanimous election of the Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar and the Deputy Speaker, Shri Kariya Munda, both belonging to the most disadvantaged communities, represented reaffirmation of the commitment of the House to the cause of social justice and empowerment of these communities. The Prime Minister described Shri Kariya Munda as a multifaceted personality, an accomplished social worker and a man with wealth of experience in the working of the Parliament. He assured the Government's wholehearted cooperation to Shri Kariya Munda in running the affairs of the House.

The Leader of the House and the Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee shared with the House that he had the opportunity of witnessing Shri Kariya Munda as a parliamentarian, as an administrator and also as a social reformer. Shri Pranab Mukherjee expressed his happiness over maintaining the tradition of choosing a member of the Opposition as the Deputy Speaker of the House since 1977. He wished Shri Munda all success and assured him of the fullest cooperation of the House.

The Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani congratulated Shri Kariya Munda and said that the unanimous election of Shri Kariya Munda further strengthened the healthy tradition of electing a member of the Opposition as the Deputy Speaker, which amply demonstrated the maturity of the democratic system underlining the mutual respectful relations between the treasury benches and the Opposition. He expressed the hope that under Shri Munda's guidance, the business of the House would run smoothly.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) congratulated Shri Kariya Munda on his unanimous election and said that Shri Munda's rich experience of seven terms in the Lok Sabha would certainly benefit the House. He assured him full support in conducting the proceedings of the House, on behalf of his party.

Shri Sharad Yadav [Janata Dal (United)] congratulated Shri Kariya Munda on his elevation to the post of Deputy Speaker of the House

and said that this gracious act of his unanimous election by the House needs to be appreciated.

Congratulating Shri Kariya Munda on his unanimous election, Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh (Bahujan Samaj Party) expressed the hope that Shri Munda would lead the House to achieve the goal of an equitable society. The *Dalit,* poor and the backward people of our country were rising to the higher posts and this was a good sign, he added.

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi (Biju Janata Dal) felicitated Shri Kariya Munda and said that he had a long experience in the service of the people in various capacities, as a member of Parliament, as a member of the different Committees of House and as a Minister in the Central Cabinet. On behalf of his party, Shri Sethi assured him all cooperation in conducting the proceedings of the House.

Shri Basudeb Acharia [Communist Party of India (Marxist)] described Shri Kariya Munda as a multifaceted personality and assured him full support of the CPI(M) in conducting the proceedings of the House. He also expressed the hope that the decorum and dignity of the House would be maintained under Shri Kariya Munda.

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay [All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)], wholeheartedly appreciated the sentiments and the decision taken by the Prime Minister, Leader of the House, Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance and Leader of the Opposition for unanimously electing Shri Kariya Munda as the Deputy Speaker. He congratulated Shri Kariya Munda and assured him of all cooperation on behalf of AITC.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete (Shiv Sena), congratulated Shri Kariya Munda on his unanimous election. He said that the rich experience of Shri Munda would come handy in running the House and assured him full cooperation on behalf of Shiv Sena.

Dr. M. Thambidurai [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)], on his own behalf and on behalf of his party, congratulated Shri Kariya Munda for being elected unanimously to the post of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He assured to Shri Munda of the full support of AIADMK in running the House smoothly.

Shri T.R. Baalu [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)], congratulated Shri Kariya Munda and promised him the fullest cooperation of his Party in conducting the House in a peaceful manner.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta [Communist Party of India (CPI)], congratulated Shri Kariya Munda and said that the representation of the backward

and *Dalit* in the highest forum of democracy has raised a new hope of social upliftment. He expressed the hope that this gesture was translated into effective State policy to do good to the depressed, minority and *Dalit*.

Felicitating Shri Kariya Munda, Shri Ajit Singh (Rashtriya Lok Dal) said that Shri Munda enjoyed the support of all the parties which would help him to discharge his duties efficiently.

Shri Inder Singh Namdhari (Independent), said that with the elevation of Shri Kariya Munda to the post of Deputy Speaker, the dignity of the House has enhanced. By electing him to this post, the country was trying to repay the debt of Mahatma Gandhi, he added.

Congratulating Shri Kariya Munda, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar said:

> *Honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the House, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Leaders of Parties and Groups and honourable Members:*
>
> It is a matter of great happiness that one of our worthy colleagues, Shri Kariya Munda ji has been unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to Shri Kariya Munda ji on this occasion. May I also congratulate all the members of the Lok Sabha in ensuring the smooth election of an eminent parliamentarian to this august office. Honourable members, parliamentary democracy has taken deep roots in our country. The peaceful conduct of the General Elections to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha and the clear mandate given by the electorate, I am sure, are a testimony to their maturity and also of our parliamentary system. Within six decades of Independence, India has firmly secured its position as the largest working democracy of the world, in spite of having to contend with many problems, both internal and external.
>
> The people of India have reposed their faith in us and also given to us a very high responsibility. We now have the bounden duty to strive to come up to their expectations. Through healthy debates and purposive discussions, we have to chart out the plan for the country's development and pave the way for our people's prosperity. I am sure that the Fifteenth Lok Sabha will witness further strengthening of parliamentary institutions, and the promotion of a healthy parliamentary culture. Shri Kariya Munda ji, whom the House has unanimously elected as the honourable Deputy Speaker is a man of the masses. Shri Kariya Munda ji has always stood

out in our public life and is respected widely for his honesty, integrity and sincerity. Representing the Khunti parliamentary constituency in Jharkhand, he has made significant contributions as a member of the Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas.

During his illustrious career, he was a member of the Bihar and Jharkhand Legislatures, where too he displayed exemplary parliamentary skills. He was also a Minister in the Union Cabinet when his administrative acumen was acknowledged by the nation. Being closely associated with the under-privileged, he has tirelessly worked towards eradicating socio-economic inequalities. With such a distinguished public life, he is eminently suited to adorn the Office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

While we have every reason to be proud of the fact that elections to the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker have been unanimous, we should, at the same time, ensure that this unanimity should be hallmark of the functioning of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. In a parliamentary democracy, there are bound to be differences of opinion on various occasions, a fact which makes the job of a Presiding Officer very challenging. However, in the interest of the welfare of the nation and the people, we shall have to arrive at consensus on major issues. I am confident, as Presiding Officers, Shri Munda ji and I will receive full cooperation from all sections of this House. I am equally sure, that Shri Kariya Munda ji's vast legislative experience and his unquestionable integrity will go a long way in upholding the dignity of this august House and enriching our parliamentary system.

With these words, I would like to once again congratulate the newly elected honourable Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Kariya Munda ji. I would also like to convey my very best wishes to Shri Munda ji in fulfilling the onerous responsibility bestowed upon him.

Replying to the felicitations, the newly elected Deputy Speaker, Shri Kariya Munda, said:

Honourable Speaker, honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the House, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Leaders of Parties and Groups and honourable Members:

It is indeed a matter of great honour to be elected the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I am grateful to you all for unanimously electing me to this high office. I do not have

sufficient words to express my feelings for this honour and I accept this constitutional office with all humility. I am, indeed, overwhelmed with the rich feelings expressed for me by all sections of the House. I wish to assure you that I shall make maximum possible efforts to upkeep the dignity of this august House. At the outset, I heartily congratulate Shrimati Meira Kumar Ji for her unanimous election to the office of Speaker, Lok Sabha and also for being the first woman Speaker. I want to assure her that I would fully support and cooperate with her towards conduction of the proceedings of the House. I, also, heartily welcome you all honourable members for the great fortune you are blessed with to come elected to this popular House of the biggest working democracy of the world.

I have been elected the Deputy Speaker of this House for the first time. However, as most of the honourable members know, Parliamentary Institutions and Parliamentary Procedure and Practice are not new to me. I was, for the first time, elected to the Sixth Lok Sabha in 1977. Later, I was elected to the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and now, further to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. Meanwhile, I got the opportunity also to be elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. I also had the privilege to work as Union Minister in the Cabinets of Prime Ministers Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I hope that my parliamentary experience and the rich traditions set by preceding Deputy Speakers would help me towards discharge of my parliamentary duties and upkeep of the dignity of our Parliament. I look forward to your constant cooperation for effective discharge of the duties.

Our Parliament has evolved as a multi-functional institution in the years after independence. It is the focal point of the political pulsation of our country and is able to forge itself according to the needs of changing time. It is a well known fact that the Parliament has played a very important role towards keeping the political system vibrant in context of the socio-economic scenario of the country. Our Parliament has set up conducive precedents and traditions in its functioning in the last decades. As a public representative, the member holds position of an esteemed person. As such, dignified conduct in and out of the House is one of the primary duties of the member. It is also important to reach consensus through mutual discussion and cooperation. As elected public representatives, we all should start with presenting ourselves in such a manner which may manifest dignity, courtesy, tolerance

and harmony. I hope, every elected member, working with a sense of commitment, would understand the rules of the House, obey them and contribute in a valuable manner to the proceedings of the House so that we all might work towards the welfare of the people in a concerted way. I am grateful to all honourable members who have expressed their good wishes for me and assured me of their fullest cooperation. On my own behalf too, I assure you to try my level best to upkeep the confidence you have reposed in me.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA — A LIFE SKETCH

An illustrious parliamentarian, Shri Kariya Munda, who has made a mark of his charismatic personality with his selfless service on the social and political life of India, has enriched the Indian parliamentary democracy in his own way. In his long political career spanning over more than four decades, Shri Munda brought to bear on his work the force of his personality while discharging the onerous duty whether as a Member of Parliament or State Assembly, as Chairman of Parliamentary Committees or as Union Minister before being unanimously elected to the office of the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Shri Kariya Munda, an agriculturist by profession, was born on 20 April 1936 in Anigara of District Ranchi (presently Khunti District), Jharkhand. He was married to Late Smt. Sunanda Devi and is blessed with two sons and four daughters. A post-graduate from the Ranchi University, Shri Munda started his early career as a social worker and an activist of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Subsequently, he served the Bharatiya Janata Party in various capacities, besides adorning the position of the Vice-President, BJP in 1998, and President of the Tribal Cell of the party in the early 1990s. Till 1977, Shri Munda was holding the position of Joint Secretary, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Bihar. He started his formal political career in 1970 and elected to the Sixth Lok Sabha in 1977. Later, Shri Munda was re-elected to the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabha. In the interregnum, he was elected and served as a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1982-84 and the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly during 2005-09. Shri Munda also shouldered important responsibilities in the Government while being the Union Minister of State, Steel and Mines way back in 1977-79, and subsequently as Union Cabinet Minister, Welfare in 1996; Union Cabinet Minister, Agro and Rural Industries in 2001-03; Union Cabinet Minister of Coal in 2003-04; and as Union Minister, Non-Conventional Energy Sources in 2004. On 8 June, 2009, Shri Munda was elected unanimously as the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

Shri Munda has also been associated with several parliamentary Committees both as a member and Chairman. He was an active member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1991-93 and 2000-01 and Committee on Urban and Rural Development during 1994-96, besides being a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Industry in 1990-91. Shri Munda made valued contribution as Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and its Sub-Committee on Monitoring and Implementation of Reservation Orders in respect of SCs and STs in 1998-99; and Chairman, Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions in 2009.

Shri Kariya Munda is a multi-faceted personality who has been working consistently for the upliftment of the various sections of the society, and especially the socially and economically disadvantaged. He is associated with many NGOs and actively participated in the activities of *Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh*, as a member, and *Sarvangeen Gram Vikas Sanstha* as a Chairman besides being associated with D.A.V. and Ramakrishna Mission. He is known for being a great admirer and patron of folk songs and dance, through which he keeps himself attuned to the feel of the common man. Also, he is an astute lover of sports, especially hockey and football. Shri Munda has widely travelled in India and had been to China, England, France, Nepal, North Korea, Singapore, Thailand, U.A.E. and U.S.A.

5

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 5 to 10 April 2009. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Assembly consisted of Dr. K. Malaisamy and Sardar Tarlochan Singh, both members of Parliament from Rajya Sabha. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, as Executive Committee Member, Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) and Dr. V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, as member, ASGP also attended the Assembly. Shri J.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat served as Secretary to the Delegation.

The Assembly discussed the following themes and adopted Resolutions thereon:

- Advancing Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and Securing the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty: The Role of Parliaments;
- Climate Change, Sustainable Development Models, and Renewable Energies; and
- Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information.

Besides, the Assembly held the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world under the overall theme of 'Parliaments: Building Peace, Democracy and Development in times of Crisis' and Panel Discussions on two themes: "Adolescent Girls: The Girls left behind?" and "Managing Diversity".

Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: The mid-year Executive Committee meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was held in Bermuda from 13 to 18 April 2009. Shri Francis Fanthome, MP, Lok Sabha attended the meeting as the alternate Regional Representative in place of Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the then Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly attended the meeting as the Treasurer of the CPA.

The 40th British Island and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Guernsey: CPA Guernsey Branch hosted the 40th British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference in Guernsey from 15 to 19 June 2009. Shri Uday Narain Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly and Regional Representative from CPA, India Region in the CPA Executive Committee attended the Conference as an Observer.

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Extension to Parliament House Annexe: On 5 May 2009, the Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the then Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee laid the Foundation Stone of Extension to Parliament House Annexe Building. The proposed building will meet the space requirement of Office Rooms of Chairmen, Committee Rooms and other space requirements of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. The Building will have eight Committee rooms, Seminar hall, multi-utility audio-video functionality and multilevel basements for parking & Services. The Building has been designed by the Architectural Wing of Central Public Works Department and will be centrally Air-Conditioned, with Eco-friendly features like Solar Panels and Rain Water Harvesting.

President visits Parliament Museum: On 1 May 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil accompanied by her husband Dr. Devisingh Shekhawat and two grand children visited the Parliament Museum. During her visit, the President showed keen interest in the various exhibits of the Museum. She took particular interest in the virtual reality presentation on 'Dandi March' and also listened to the 'Tryst with Destiny' speech of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the recreated Central Hall in the Museum.

During the period, a total of 4,268 visitors visited the Museum. Apart from 1,281 general visitors, 836 students from 8 schools/ colleges from all over the country visited the Museum. Besides, a number of present and former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the Museum. Among the foreign dignitaries, a Delegation led by Mr. Amanullah Paiman, Second Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Afghanistan visited the Museum.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 April to 30 June 2009.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar a function was held on 14 April 2009 in the Central Hall, Parliament House. The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh; the then Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Pandit Motilal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru a function was held on 6 May 2009. The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh; the then Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani; Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj; the Deputy Chairman, Shri K. Rahman Khan; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore a function was held on 9 May 2009 in the Central Hall of Parliament. The then Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Minister for External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of *Swatantryaveer* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a function was held on 28 May 2009. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2009, the Bureau of

Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

Study Visits: During the period the Bureau conducted Study Visits for: (i) a 21-member Delegation from the Parliament of Afghanistan from 27 to 28 May 2009; (ii) an 11-member Delegation of Media persons from Sri Lanka on 9 June 2009; and (iii) six Researchers from the Secretariat of the Mongolian Parliament from 22 to 25 June 2009.

In addition, three other Study Visits were conducted for the benefit of students/trainees/officers of various institutions / organizations. In all, 158 participants attended these Study Visits.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) Probationers of Indian Statistical Service from 6 to 9 April 2009; attended by 23 participants; (ii) Senior Accounts / Audit Officers and Accounts / Audit Officers from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 13 to 17 July 2009; attended by 52 participants; and (iii) Probationers of Indian Forest Service from 20 to 24 July 2009; attended by 29 participants.

Training Programmes/Courses: The Bureau also organised: (i) Training Programme for Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats dealing with Questions, Legislative Business and Budgetary Process from 13 to 17 April 2009; attended by 25 participants; (ii) Training Programme for Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats working in Financial Committees from 11 to 15 May 2009, attended by 36 officials; and (iii) Training Programme for Reporters of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats from 1 to 5 June 2009, attended by 29 participants.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009, the Committee of Privileges held one sitting on 29 April 2009. The details are placed below.

(i) Notices of question of privilege given by Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Madhusudan Mistry, MPs against Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Mahavir Bhagora and Faggan Singh Kulaste, MPs for allegedly committing a grave misconduct by bringing bundles of currency notes in, and displaying them on the Table of the House, thereby disturbing the proceedings and lowering the dignity of the House.

On 22 July 2008, during the debate on the Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers, Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahavir Bhagora, MPs came to the well of the House with two bags. The members took out wads of currency notes from the bags with them and started placing the same on the Table of the House. Amidst pandemonium, the Deputy Speaker who was in the Chair adjourned the House. Thereafter, the Speaker, Lok Sabha held a meeting in his chamber in which along with leaders of various parties, some Ministers and others, Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahavir Bhagora, MPs were also present. The Speaker desired the members to file a written complaint in the matter, if they so desired.

Thereafter, when the House met, the Speaker *inter alia* made the following observation:

> "..... We have heard the three honourable members of the House. They had some complaints to make. I had requested them to put their complaints in writing to me. I assured them, I assured the leaders and I assure the House that all possible steps that are required in that connection will be taken by me as a custodian of this House. It is my duty to do that and I seek the cooperation of all sections of the House.

Please allow me to apply my judgment, look into the matter, and I can assure you nobody will be spared if found guilty."

On 25 July 2008, Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahavir Bhagora, MPs in their joint statement *inter alia* alleged that they had been offered money to vote in favour of the Motion of Confidence and they wanted to expose the entire episode.

On 26 July 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha appointed an Inquiry Committee to inquire into the matter. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee. Sarvashri C. Kuppusami, Rajesh Verma, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Mohammad Salim, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav were other six members of the Inquiry Committee.

In the meantime, Shri Mohan Singh, MP gave a notice of question of privilege dated 24 July 2008, against Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Mahavir Bhagora and Faggan Singh Kulaste, MPs. The member contended that the three MPs had lowered the dignity and prestige of the House and had also misused the privileges given to members by bringing bundles of currency notes and laying them on the Table of the House. He further contended that the said three members had also committed breach of his privilege by not giving him a chance to speak during the confidence motion held on 21 and 22 July 2008. He also stated that the action of the three MPs was in violation of Rule 349(xiv), (xv) and (xvi) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry, MP also gave a notice of question of privilege dated 31 July 2008, against the said three members, contending that their action amounted to contempt and a breach of privilege of the House.

On 12 November 2008, the Speaker, Lok Sabha in exercise of his powers under Rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee, in their Nineteenth Report adopted on 29 April 2009, observed that the said three members could have laid a trap and got the persons who brought money to them arrested at the residence of Shri Argal; they could have gone to the Speaker, Lok Sabha and lodged a complaint with him or they could have approached the police subsequently and registered a complaint in the matter. But, instead of taking such logical and practical steps, they waited, planned and deliberately brought the money inside the House and placed it on the Table of the House. The intention seemed to be to dramatise the whole sordid affair.

The Committee also observed that significantly there had not been even a hint of remorse or regret on the part of the members in this regard.

The Committee were, therefore, of the firm view that there could possibly be no justification whatsoever for this act of grave misconduct merely for the stated reason that it emanated out of an intent to expose another illegal act.

The gist of the Committee's further observations is as follows:

> "Privileges of Parliament enumerated in Article 105 of the Constitution are meant to enable the Houses of Parliament and their members to perform their parliamentary duties without any impediment or hindrance. Article 105(2) confers immunity on members in respect of anything said in Parliament, which means during the sitting of the House and in the course of transaction of Business of the House. But, these privileges are subject to the power of the House to regulate its internal proceedings and to adjudicate upon matters arising within the House.
>
> It is ironical indeed that the members refer to Article 105 of the Constitution when faced with a question of alleged breach of privilege. Privileges are available to members to perform their parliamentary duties and not for preventing or obstructing other members from performing their parliamentary duties. Further, as already stated provisions of Article 105 are subject to the rules and standing order regulating procedure in Parliament. As a matter of fact, immunity is available from any action in respect of anything said or any vote given in the House or any Committee of the House; it is not available in respect of any such act committed in the House. If, therefore, by indulging in certain act in the House, a member commits contempt of the House, it is not open to him to claim immunity under Article 105.
>
> The political system is facing a crisis of confidence among the common people. Each and every act of member is under the public gaze. Our democratic policy can ill afford indiscreet and unbecoming conducts by members which tend to erode its credibility. Lamentably, members are routinely accused of misusing their rights and immunities. In this case the act was committed by the three members in full view of the House and they were well aware that that their actions were being watched by millions of people on television nationally and internationally."

The Committee felt that Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Mahavir Bhagora and Faggan Singh Kulaste, who are all experienced parliamentarians, should not have indulged in such reckless and irresponsible behaviour, which certainly tends to have serious impact upon the trust and confidence which people usually repose in this august institution. Their actions do constitute contempt of the House.

The Committee expressed their profound sadness over this behaviour of the said three members. No extenuating circumstances—real or imaginary—can detract from the gravity of such acts and serious implications and adverse impact of the same on the credibility of our democratic institutions. The Committee strongly deprecated and condemned the irresponsible behaviour of the members. The Committee hoped that there would not be recurrence of such incidents.

In view of the foregoing discussion, the Committee recommended that their observations made above and their displeasure may be communicated to Sarvashri Ashok Argal, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahavir Bhagora, MPs.

(ii) Question of privilege given notice of by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP against Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni for premature disclosure of proceedings/ documents presented to the Committee to Inquire into complaint made by some members regarding alleged offer of money to them in connection with voting on the Motion of Confidence, thereby having committed breach of privilege and contempt of the said Committee as well as of the House.

At their fifth sitting held on 18 August 2008, the Committee to Inquire into the complaint made by members regarding alleged offer of money to them in connection with voting on the motion of confidence, examined on oath Shri Rewati Raman Singh, MP, and Sarvashri Sudheendra Kulkarni, Sanjeev Saxena and Suhail Hindustani, whose names were mentioned by Shri Ashok Argal and Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, MPs during their evidence before the Committee. Sarvashri Kulkarni and Suhail Hindustani handed over their written submissions before the hearing and Shri Kulkarni handed over additional written submissions during his evidence. As per practice, before examining Shri Kulkarni, the Committee of Privileges made an observation under the provisions of Rule 275 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha that the evidence given before the Committee *"is to be treated as confidential till the Report of the Committee and its proceedings are presented to the Lok Sabha and that any premature disclosure or publication of the proceedings of the Committee would constitute a breach of privilege and contempt of the House."*

On 19 August 2008, a news report under the caption, 'Panel on cash-for-votes takes fresh evidence' appeared in *'The Hindu'* (relied upon by the member) wherein, it had been *inter alia* reported that "Although the submissions before the Committee are meant to be confidential and a matter of privilege, Mr. Hindustani's submission was e-mailed to many correspondents by the office of Mr. Kulkarni."

On 14 January 2009, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP, gave a notice of question of privilege against Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni for having committed breach of privilege and contempt of the Inquiry Committee as well as of the House. Elaborating, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav stated that before the sitting Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni and Shri Suhail Hindustani handed over their written submissions. During his evidence Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni also handed over additional written submissions. Shri Yadav added that subsequently, as per the news report in *'The Hindu'*, which appeared in 19 August 2008, the written submissions made by Shri Suhail Hindustani were e-mailed to many correspondents by the office of Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav also drew the attention to the observations made by the Inquiry Committee in their Report at paras 125, 126 and 127 and contended that the said transcripts were reportedly provided to the Press by none else than Shri Kulkarni. The member also contended that as per the said news items appearing in *'The Hindu'*, as also from the observations made by the Inquiry Committee in their report, it follows that 'Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni parted with the transcript of tapes in question which were in possession of the Inquiry Committee at a time when the report in the matter was yet to be presented to the House. Hence, the said acts of Shri Kulkarni amount to a breach of privilege and contempt of the Inquiry Committee as well as the House'.

The member accordingly requested that the matter may be referred to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

On 16 January 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in exercise of his powers under Rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee, in their Twenty Third Report adopted on 29 April 2009 observed that the privileges are part and parcel of the Constitution and, therefore, of what is known as the 'fundamental law'. As held by the Supreme Court in the *Searchlight Case,* (MSM Sharma v. Sri Krishna Sinha [(AIR 1959 SC 395)], the provisions of article 105(3) and article 194(3) are constitutional laws and not ordinary laws made by the Parliament or the State legislatures and they are, therefore, as

supreme as the provisions of Part III *i.e.* fundamental rights. As further pointed out by the Supreme Court in this case, article 19(1)(a) and article 194(3) have to be reconciled and the only way of reconciling the same is to read article 19(1)(a), as subject to the latter part of article 194(3). The principle of harmonious construction must be adopted and so constructed the provisions of article 19(1)(a) which are general, must yield to article 194(1) and the latter part clause (3) thereof which are special.

The Committee, thus, observed that in case of clash between the fundamental right to speech as enumerated in article 19(1) and article 105 of the Constitution, article 19(1) must yield to the provisions clauses (1) and (3) of article 105.

The Committee also observed that in the instant case Shri Kulkarni could not seek immunity from privilege proceedings for his act on the plea that he enjoys the right to freedom of speech and expression. As already held by the Committee, the disclosure of documents to the print media made by Shri Kulkarni is premature and clear case of breach of privilege of the Committee and the House thereof.

The Committee, therefore, held that Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni had committed a breach of privilege of the Committee to inquire into complaint made by some members regarding alleged offer of money to them in connection with the voting on the Motion of Confidence and also of the House.

The Committee also emphasised that it was inappropriate on the part of Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni, who claims to have long years of journalistic experience as also having worked in PMO earlier, to act in a manner which is wholly unacceptable and militates against the basic norms and tenets of parliamentary democracy. His act is also against the journalistic ethics. The Committee strongly condemned and expressed their resentment over the conduct of Shri Kulkarni which smacks of his scant-regard for parliamentary conventions and his penchant for making a mockery of our democratic institutions. The Committee further wished to bring to fore the serious ramifications of acts like those of Shri Kulkarni's and the need for dealing with such incident with severity.

The Committee recommended that their observations and displeasure as expressed in the report may be conveyed to Shri Kulkarni.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Observation from the Chair regarding procedure for raising matter of urgent public importance after Question Hour: On 10 July 2009, the Speaker, Lok Sabha made the following observation regarding procedure for raising matter of urgent public importance after Question Hour:–

> "As the honourable members are aware, in an effort to regulate the procedure for raising matters of urgent public importance after "Question Hour", a decision was taken in consultation with the leaders of all parties at the meeting held on 1 July 2009 that notices for raising matter of urgent public importance will be accepted between 9.00 hrs. and 9.30 hrs. The first 20 notices will be valid for the day. Out of these 20 notices, 5 will be permitted to be raised after the Question Hour and rest of the matters will be allowed to be raised after 6 O' clock or after business for the day is over, as the case may be. I wish to reiterate that the priority of the notices is not determined on the basis of their time of receipt in the Notice Office. It is entirely for the Chair to decide which of the matters will be permitted to be raised after the Question Hour. Members may kindly bear in mind that being first in the point of time does not entitle them to raise their matter immediately after the Question Hour".

8

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The First Session of newly constituted Fifteenth Lok Sabha[1] commenced on 1 June 2009 and the Two Hundred and Sixteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 4 June 2009. Both the Houses were adjourned on 9 June 2009. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, prorogued the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 12 June 2009.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 16 March 2009, Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy of the Indian National Congress (INC) was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh. His term commenced on 1 April 2009 and he made and subscribed an oath/affirmation on 27 April 2009.

On 22 June 2009, Sarvashri Hemant Soren, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, (INC) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand. The term of both the members commenced on 24 June 2009 and they made and subscribed an oath/affirmation on 2 July 2009.

On 13 June 2009, Sarvashri Ganga Charan and Shriram Pal, both of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. The term of both the members commenced on 19 June 2009 and they made and subscribed an oath/affirmation on 2 July 2009.

1. For details, *see*, Feature "The Fifteenth Lok Sabha: Triump of Democracy", pp. 319-324

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: On 5 April 2009, Shri Digvijay Singh of the Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

On 23 April 2009, Shri Banwari Lal Kanchhal of the Samajwadi Party (SP) resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

On 12 June 2009, Shri Balihari Babu of the BSP resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

On 29 June 2009, Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj of the INC resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

Consequent upon their election to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, following members of the Rajya Sabha vacated their seats *w.e.f.* 16 May 2009. They were: Sarvashri Sharad Yadav, Dilip Singh Ju Dev, Yashwant Sinha, Narendra Singh Tomar, Praful Patel, Sushil Kumar Sambhajirao Shinde, B.J. Panda, Jaswant Singh, J.P. Aggarwal, V. Narayanasamy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Smt. Supriya Sule.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 16 and 23 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 294; Indian National Congress (INC): 158; Telugu Desam Party (TDP): 105; Praja Rajyam Party (PRP): 18; and Others: 13.

Chief Minister Sworn in: On 20 May 2009, Shri Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was sworn in as the Chief Minister.

Death of MLA-elect: On 2 June 2009, Shri Korla Revathipathi MLA-elect (TDP) representing Tekkali Constituency passed away following heart attack at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam. He was 50.

New Speaker: On 4 June 2009, Shri Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 25 May 2009, the Chief Minister constituted 35-member Council of Ministers. The names of the Council of Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Chief Minister, *General Administration, Law & Order, PE* and *all other portfolios not allotted to other Ministers;* Sarvashri P. Sudarshan Reddy, *Medical Education;* D. Sridhar Babu, *Higher Education,*

NRI Affairs; Damodar Raja Narasimha, *Marketing & Warehousing;* D. Nagender, *Health & Family Welfare, APVVP* and *Hospital Services;* M. Mukhesh Goud, *B.C. Welfare;* J. Krishna Rao, *Food, Civil Supplies, Legal Metrology & Consumer Affairs;* Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, *IT, Youth Services & Sports, Communications;* P. Lakshmaiah, *Major & Medium Irrigation, A.P. Water Resources Development Corporation;* R. Venkat Reddy, *Cooperation* and *Labour & Employment, Factories & Boilers;* S. Vijayaramaraju, *Transport;* D. Prasada Rao, *Revenue, Relief, Rehabilitation, U.L.C.;* B. Satyanarayana, *Panchayat Raj;* P. Balaraju, *Tribal Welfare & R.I.A.D.;* P. Subash Chandra Bose, *Social Welfare;* P. Viswarupu, *Rural Water Supply;* Pitani Satyanarayana, *Arogya Sree, Health Insurance, & Medical Infrastructure;* V. Vasant Kumar, *Rural Development, IKP, Pensions & NREGP, Self Help Groups;* K. Pardha Saradhi, *Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries* and *Veterinary University;* M.V. Raman Rao, *Law & Courts, Technical Education & ITIs;* Gade Venkata Reddy, *Endowments, Stamps & Registration;* Kanna Lakshmi Narayana, *Major Industries, Commerce & Export Promotion Food Processing;* D. Manikya Vara Prasada Rao, *Secondary Education, Government Examinations, A.P. Residential Educational Institutions Society, Hyderabad Public School & Intermediate Education;* K. Rosaiah, *Finance, Planning, Small Savings, Lotteries* and *Legislative Affair;* B. Srinivasa Reddy, *Mines & Geology, Handlooms & Textiles, Spinning Mills;* Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, *Municipal Administration & Urban Development;* Mohd. Ahmadulla Syed, *Minorities Welfare, Wakf, Urdu Academy, Primary Education, SSA, Adult Education, AP Open Schools Society, Jawahar Bal Bhavan, A.P. Mahila Samata Society, SIET, Public Libraries, SCRET & A.P. Text Book Press;* C. Silpa Mohan Reddy, *Housing, Weaker Section Housing Programme, A.P. Coop. Housing Societies Federation, A.P. Housing Board;* Neelakanthapuram Raghuveera Reddy, *Agriculture, Agriculture Technology Mission, Horticulture, Sericulture, R.S.A.D;* P. Ramachandra Reddy, *Forest, Environment, Science & Technology;* Smt. G. Aruna Kumari, *Roads & Buildings;* Smt. V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy, *Minor Irrigation, A.P. Irrigation Development Corporation, Lift Irrigation, Ground Water Development, WALAMTARI;* Smt. J. Geeta, *I & PR, Cinematography, FDC & Tourism, Archaeology, Museums, Archives & Culture;* Smt. P. Sabita Indra Reddy, *Home, Jails, Fire Services, Sainik Welfare, Printing & Stationery;* Smt. D.K. Aruna, *Small Scale Industries, Sugar, Khadi & Village Industries;* and Smt. Konda Surekha, *Women Development & Child Welfare, Disabled Welfare & Juvenile Welfare.*

ASSAM

Death of Governor: On 25 June 2009, Governor and former

Rajasthan Chief Minister, Shiv Charan Mathur, passed away in a Delhi hospital. He was 83.

New Governor: On 27 July 2009, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi was sworn in as the Governor of Assam.

BIHAR

Assembly By-election Result: On 1 June 2009, Shri Arun Manjhi of the JD(U) was declared elected from the Fatuha Assembly Constituency, by-election to which was held on 28 May 2009.

Resignation of Party MLA: On 13 June 2009, Shri Shyam Razak, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA resigned from the party.

New Governor: On 24 July 2009, Shri Devanand Konwar was sworn as the Governor of Bihar.

DELHI

Assembly By-election Result: On 18 May 2009, Shri Vipin Sharma of the INC was declared elected from Rohtas Nagar Assembly Constituency, by-election to which was held on 7 May 2009.

GUJARAT

New Governor: On 24 July 2009, Shri Sanayangba Chubatoshi Jamir was sworn in as the Governor of Gujarat.

Resignation of Minister: On 27 March 2009, Minister for Higher Education and Women's Welfare Smt. Mayaben Kodnani resigned from the Cabinet.

HARYANA

Resignation of MLA: On 22 April 2009, Shri Ram Kumar Gautam, BJP MLA from Narnaund Constituency resigned from the State Legislative Assembly.

Resignation of MLAs: On 22 May 2009, Shri Bhajan Lal of the Haryana Janhit Congress and Shri Jitender Singh Malik, an INC MLA resigned from Adampur and Kailana Assembly Constituencies, respectively, following their election to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

New Governor: On 27 July 2009, Shri Jagannath Pahadia was sworn in as the Governor of Haryana.

JHARKHAND

Resignation of MLA: On 30 May 2009, Shri Shibu Soren, JMM

MLA from Ranchi, resigned from the State Legislative Assembly, following his election to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha.

New Governor: On 26 July 2009, Shri Kateekal Sankaranarayanan was sworn in as the Governor of Jharkhand.

KARNATAKA

New Governor: On 25 June 2009, Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj was sworn in as the Governor of Karnataka.

MADHYA PRADESH

Assassination of MLA: On 14 April 2009, Shri Makhan Lal Jatav, an INC MLA from Gohad Constituency was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Bhind.

New Governor: On 1 July 2009, Shri Rameshwar Thakur was sworn in as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

MEGHALAYA

New Coalition Ministry Sworn in: On 13 April 2009, a seven-member Congress and United Democratic Party (UDP) Coalition Ministry headed by Shri D.D. Lapang was sworn in. Along with him, six other Cabinet Ministers including four from the Congress also took oath of office. The four Congress Ministers were Dr. Mukul Sangma, who was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, and Sarvashri R.C. Laloo, M.M. Dangoo and Ampareen Lyngdoh. A UDP legislator Shri J.A. Lyngdoh and an Independent member Shri Abu Taher Mondol were the others sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

New Speaker: On 25 May 2009, Shri Charles Pyngrope was elected unopposed as the new Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

ORISSA

Assembly Election Results: Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 16 and 23 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Total seats: 147; Biju Janata Dal (BJD): 109; INC: 26; BJP: 7; and Others: 5.

New Chief Minister: On 21 May 2009, BJD President Shri Naveen Patnaik was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Orissa. Twenty others also took oath as Cabinet Ministers.

The names of Council of Ministers with their portfolios are: Shri Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister, *Home, Works, Forest & Environment,*

General Administration, Water Resource; Sarvashri Prasanna Acharya, *Public Grievances & Pensions Administration, Health & Family Welfare;* Prafulla Chandra Ghadai, *Finance, Excise;* Prafulla Samal, *Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations,* Raghunath Mohanty, *Parliamentary Affairs, Industries, Steel* and *Mines;* Surjya Narayan Patro, *Revenue & Disaster Management;* Anang Uday Singh Deo, *Public Enterprises, Planning & Co-Ordination;* Debi Prasad Mishra, *Higher Education, Tourism & Culture (Culture), Tourism* and *Culture (Tourism);* Bikram Keshari Arukha, *Rural Development, Law;* Dr. Damodar Rout, *Agriculture, Co-operation, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development;* Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha, *ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department;* and Smt. Pramila Mallik, *Women* and *Child Development.*

The Ministers of State (Independent Charge) are: Sarvashri Pratap Jena, *School* and *Mass Education;* Puspendra Singh Deo, *Labour & Employment;* Ramesh Chandra Majhi, *Information Technology, Science* and *Technology;* Sarada Prasad Nayak, *Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare;* Sanjeeb Kumar Sahoo, *Commerce & Transport;* Badrinarayan Patra, *Housing* and *Urban Development;* Prabin Chandra Bhanj Deo, *Sports* and *Youth Services;* Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, *Energy;* and Smt. Anjali Behera, *Textiles & Handloom.*

Shri Prabin Chandra Bhanj Deo, is the Minister of State, *Revenue & Disaster Management.*

New Speaker: On 25 May 2009, Shri Pradeep Kumar Amat was elected as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

PUDUCHERRY

Death of Lt. Governor: On 6 April 2009, Lt. Governor of Puducherry Shri Govind Singh Gurjar, passed away following a prolonged illness in New Delhi. He was 77.

Withdrawal of Support: On 7 April 2009, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) which has two elected members and a nominated member in the Legislative Assembly withdrew support to the Congress Government.

SIKKIM

Assembly Election Results: The ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), led by Chief Minister Dr. Pawan Chamling, won all the 32 seats in the State Legislative elections held on 30 April 2009.

New Chief Minister: On 20 May 2009, Dr. Pawan Chamling was

sworn in the Chief Minister of Sikkim. Eleven others were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

The names of the Ministers with their portfolios is as follows: Dr. Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister, *Home Department, Finance, Revenue, Expenditure Department, Development Planning, Economic Reforms, North East Council Affairs Department* and *Departments not Specially allotted to any other Minister;* Sarvashri Ran Bahadur Subba, *Roads, Bridges, Labour Department;* Thenlay Tshering Bhutia, *Water Security, Public Health, Engineering, Transport Departments;* Dawa Norbu Takarpa, *Health Care, Human Services, Family Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries, Veterinary Services, Parliamentary Affairs Department;* Narendra Kumar Pradhan, *Human Resource Development, Sports and Youth Affairs, Information Technology Department;* Dil Bahadur Thapa, *Urban Development, Housing, Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs Department;* Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, *Energy, Power, Cultural Affairs, Heritage Departments;* Chandra Bahadur Karki, *Rural Management Development, Cooperation Departments;* Dawcho Lepcha, *Food, Security, Agriculture Development, Horticulture, Cash, Crops Development, Irrigation, Flood Control Departments;* Bhim Prasad Dhungel, *Tourism, Forest, Environment, Wildlife Management, Mines, Minerals, Geology, Science and Technology Departments;* Mrs. Tilu Gurung, *Buildings, Housing Department;* and Ms. Neeru Sewa, *Commerce and Industries, Information, Public Relations, Printing, Stationary, Excise Departments.*

TAMIL NADU

Deputy Chief Minister: On 29 May 2009, Local Administration Minister, Shri M.K. Stalin, was re-designated as the Deputy Chief Minister.

TRIPURA

Assembly By-election Result: On 1 June 2009, Shri Asish Saha of the Congress was declared elected from the Bardwali Assembly Constituency, by-election to which was held on 28 May 2009.

UTTAR PRADESH

Resignation of MLA: On 9 June 2009, Shri Chandrabhadra Singh, Samajwadi Party MLA resigned from the State Legislative Assembly.

UTTARAKHAND

Resignation of MLA: On 3 April 2009, Shri Munna Singh Chauhan,

BJP MLA from Vikasnagar in Dehra Dun district resigned from the State Legislative Assembly and the Party.

Assembly By-election Result: On 1 June 2009, Shri Sher Singh Gadiya of the BJP was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from Kapkot, by-election to which was held on 28 May 2009.

New Chief Minister: On 27 June 2009, Chief Minister Shri B.C. Khanduri resigned. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal was sworn in as the new Chief Minister. Along with him, Sarvashri Matwar Singh Kandari, Bishan Singh Chufal and Madan Kaushik were also sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

EVENTS ABROAD

ALGERIA

President Re-elected: Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika was re-elected as the President, election to which was held on 9 April 2009.

ANDORRA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 28-seat General Council of the Valleys (the unicameral legislature) were held on 26 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Social Democratic Party: 14; Reformist Coalition: 11; and Andorra for Change: 3.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 17-seat House of Representatives (the lower house of Parliament, the bicameral legislature) were held on 12 March 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: United Progressive Party: 9; Antigua Labour Party: 7; and Barbuda People's Movement: 1.

CZECH REPUBLIC

New Prime Minister: On 9 April 2009, President Mr. Vaclav Klaus appointed Mr. Jan Fischer as the new Prime Minister.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

New Speaker: On 18 April 2009, Mr. Evariste Boshab was elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly (the lower chamber of the bicameral legislature). He replaced Mr. Vital Kamerhe who had resigned on 25 March 2009.

DENMARK

New Prime Minister: On 5 April 2009, Mr. Lars Loekke Rasmussen was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

ECUADOR

President Re-elected: On 26 April 2009, Mr. Rafael Correa was re-elected as the President.

EL SALVADOR

Election of President: On 15 March 2009, Mr. Mauricio Funes was elected as the President.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Assassination of President: On 2 March 2009, President Mr. João Bernardo "Nino" Vieira was shot and killed by army troops.

HUNGARY

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 21 March 2009, Prime Minister Mr. Ferenc Gyurcsany resigned.

New Prime Minister: On 14 April 2009, the 386-member National Assembly (the unicameral legislature), with 204 votes and eight abstentions formally approved Mr. Gordon Bajnai as the new Prime Minister.

ICELAND

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 63-seat *Althing* (the unicameral legislature) were held on 25 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Social Democratic Alliance: 20; Independence Party: 16; Left-Green Alliance: 14; Progressive Party: 9; and Citizens' Movement: 4.

IRAQ

Election of new Speaker: On 19 April 2009, Mr. Ayad Samarrai was elected as the Speaker of council of Representatives (the unicameral legislature). He replaced Mahmud al-Mahhadani who had resigned in December 2008.

KUWAIT

Resignation of Government: On 16 March 2009, Prime Minister Shaikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah resigned.

LATVIA

New Government: On 12 March 2009, the *Saeima* (the unicameral legislature) approved a five-party centre-right government made Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis as the Prime Minister.

LIECHTENSTEIN

New Government: On 25 March 2009, *Landtag* (the unicameral legislature) elected Mr. Klaus Tschütscher as the new Prime Minister.

MACEDONIA

Election of President: Mr. Gjorgje Ivanov, was elected as the President, elections to which were held on 22 March 2009.

MALAYSIA

New Prime Minister: On 3 April 2009, Mr. Najib Razak was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

MOLDOVA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 101-seat Parliament (the unicameral legislature) were held on 5 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Communist Party of Moldova: 60; Liberal Party: 15; Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova: 15; and Our Moldova Alliance: 11.

MONTENEGRO

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 81-seat Parliament were held on 29 March 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: Coalition for European Montenegro: 48; Socialist People's Party of Montenegro: 16; New Serb Democracy: 8; Movement for Changes: 5; Democratic Union of Albanians: 1; New Democratic Power: 1; Albanian List: 1; and Albanian Coalition—Perspective:1.

NORTH KOREA

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 686-seat 12th Supreme People's Assembly (the unicameral legislature) were held on 8 March 2009. The ruling Democratic People's Republic of Korea won all the seats uncontested.

PALESTINE

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 9 March 2009, Prime Minister Mr. Salam Khalid Abdallah Fayyad resigned.

SENEGAL

New Prime Minister: On 30 April 2009, President Mr. Abdoulaye Wade appointed Mr. Souleymane Ndene Ndiaye, as the new Prime Minister.

SLOVAKIA

President Re-elected: Mr. Ivan Gasparovic was re-elected as the President, elections to which were held on 21 March and 4 April 2009.

SOUTH AFRICA

Legislative Elections: Elections to the 400-seat National Assembly (the lower house of the bicameral legislature) were held on 22 April 2009. The party position following the elections is as follows: African National Congress: 264; Democratic Alliance: 67; Congress of the People: 30; Inkatha Freedom Party: 18; Independent Democrats: 4; United Democratic Movement: 4; Freedom Front Plus: 4; African Christian Democratic Party: 3; United Christian Democratic Party: 2; Pan African Congress: 1; Minority Front: 1; Azanian People's Organisation: 1; and African People's Convention: 1.

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

FIRST SESSION

The Fifteenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 18 May 2009. The First Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 1 June 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 9 June 2009. The House was prorogued by the President on 12 June 2009. In all, there were 7 sittings during the period.

The first two sittings of the House held on 1 and 2 June 2009 were mainly devoted to the members making and subscribing the oath or affirmation. The Speaker *pro tem*, Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit was assisted in this task by the members on the Panel of Chairmen. As many as 530 members made and subscribed the oath or affirmation and took their seats in the House during these two days. Some more members took the oath or made the affirmation in the subsequent days making the total 540.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below. (There was no Question Hour and Legislative Business during this period.)

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Election of Speaker:* Smt. Meira Kumar was elected as the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha on 3 June 2009.

*Election of Deputy Speaker**:* Shri Kariya Munda was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha on 8 June 2009.

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address# to members

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* For details of the election of the Speaker *see*, Short Note "The Election of the Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha", pp. 325-337

** For details of the election of the Deputy Speaker, *see*, Short Note "The Election of the Deputy Speaker of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha", pp. 338-345

\# For the text of the Address, *see* Feature, "Address by the President to Parliament", pp. 305-318

of Parliament: On 4 June 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address took place on 5, 8 and 9 June 2009.

The Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address was moved by Dr. (Smt.) Girija Vyas of the Indian National Congress on 5 June 2009. Moving the motion, she praised the UPA Government for keeping the growth rate at 7.4 per cent and said that this was indeed a major achievement. The fiscal deficit had come down during the last five years. She said that the UPA Government was committed to the poor and to provide bread and butter, employment and health services to the common man. She mentioned that the President had indicated her wish to speed up the growth rate. The Government was making efforts in this direction. Under the NREGA Scheme, she said that approximately 3.4 crore people had been provided jobs which comprised of 49 per cent women, 30 per cent Scheduled Castes and 25 per cent Scheduled Tribes. On matters pertaining to women, she said that the UPA Government had done a lot for women in the last five years, but a lot still remains to be done. There was no law pertaining to mentally retarded women and also no provision for the rehabilitation of rape victims. She, therefore, requested the Government to pass such laws at the earliest and to undertake social and gender auditing which was the need of the hour.

Seconding the motion, Shri P.C. Chacko (INC) said that the speech of the President was the best compliment to the unflinching faith the common man of India has in the democratic process. The multifarious programmes in the President's speech would transform the face of the rural India. Indeed, it was the bounden duty of the newly elected Parliament and the Government to fulfill the aspirations of over a billion people. Today, the world was facing an economic crisis. But, even during this worst period, the country had attained seven per cent growth rate. He also mentioned that terrorism was a threat to the country and the Government had made it very clear that internal security and zero tolerance towards terrorism would be the policy of the country. All the flagship programmes would continue. In addition to that, he said that the new programmes announced by the President would be implemented.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition (BJP) congratulated the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House and the UPA Chairperson, along with others on the mandate they had got in the 2009 elections. He said that he was always of the view that India had set a remarkable example before the whole world by making the parliamentary democracy a success. Referring to the Mumbai incident of 26 November 2008, he said that it was not an ordinary incident but an invasion of the country. In this connection, he urged that the evidence which India had given to Pakistan relating to the incident of 26 November should be made public. He also wanted to know the progress made in the case of the only terrorist captured alive. He urged that the case should not be delayed and that action should be taken at the earliest. Shri Advani pointed out that there was no mention of corruption in the President's Address. He wanted that zero tolerance approach should be adopted in respect of corruption also. Regarding the country's foreign policy, he said that situation in India's neighbourhood had deteriorated in the recent past. Taking note of the formation of a new Government in Nepal, he expressed the hope that Indo-Nepal relations would progress on the basis of our traditional relationship. He pointed out that there was also no mention of Bangladesh and the continuing illegal migration from there in the Presidential Address. He felt that India had been neglecting the issue for years. With regard to China, he wanted that the process of normalization of relationship should continue but India should never let China feel that it was bending backwards to satisfy them. Shri Advani expressed his support to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sharad Yadav, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Manohar Tirkey, Inder Singh Namdhari, Jagdambika Pal, Hassan Khan, Sajjan Singh Verma, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Dara Singh Chauhan, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, T.K.S. Elangovan, Satpal Maharaj, Dushyant Singh, Nama Nageswara Rao, Ganesh Singh, Jayant Chowdhury, Yogi Adityanath, Madhusudan Yadav, E.T. Mohamed Basheer, Nahrari Mahato, Prahlad Joshi, Thol Thirumaavalavan, Kalyan Banerjee, Virendra Kumar, Sripad Yesso Naik, Manish Tewari, S. Semmalai, Jose K. Mani, Shailendra Kumar, Bishnu Pada Ray, Kavuri Sambasiva Rao, A. Ganeshamurthi, Adhalrao Shivaji Dattatray, Raosaheb Patil Danve, P. Karunakaran, A.K.S. Vijayan, Bhakta Charan Das, Badruddin Ajmal, Kanumuru Bappi Raju, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Ram Kishan, S. Rama Subbu, Gorakhnath, Mukeshkumar Bheravdanji Gadhvi, Sharief-ud-din Shariq, R. Dhruvanarayana, Naveen Jindal, Arvind Sharma, P.L. Punia, Francisco Sardinha, Haribhau Madhav Jawale, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Kalyan Singh, D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Deepender Singh Hooda, Ch. Lal Singh, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Dr. Mirza Mehboob Beg, Dr. Bhola Singh, Dr. Vinay Kumar *alias* Vinnu, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi and Smt. Jaya Prada Nahata

Shri Basudeb Acharia (CPI-M) said that what had been stated in the Address in regard to various programmes were all repetitions of what had been stated five years ago. On rural household electrification, only 52 per cent of the targeted villages had been electrified. He further stated that under the flagship programme of the Rural Health Mission, only 68.6 per cent of the Primary Health Centres had been functioning with one or no doctor, and that, 807 Primary Health Centres had no doctor at all. He pointed out that much had been stated about inclusive growth, but the hiatus between the poor and the rich had widened. He suggested that the Essential Commodities Act should be amended and that the rising prices of essential commodities should be contained.

Shri Anant Geete (Shiv Sena) said that he supported the motion but did not agree with the opinion expressed by the President about the success of the Government. He said that the NREGA Scheme had almost failed in many States. There was a need for improvement in the Scheme as funds had not been properly utilized. He also said that there was no mention of suicide by farmers in the President's Address. Suicides by farmers have continued and suggested that the farmers should get remunerative price for their crops.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta (CPI) pointed out that there was no mention of the massive loss of jobs by employees in the country as a result of the economic-tsunami which had overtaken the world. He referred to its adverse effects on India and said that the agricultural productivity had declined and industrial growth had dipped to an all time low of 2.7 per cent. The economy was in such a distress that the non-performing assets of the banks were likely to triple in two years, reaching the astronomical figure of Rs.1,80,000 crore. This reflected the sickness of the economy, he added.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) supported the motion but said that the representation of the Muslims in the House has come down very drastically in the 2009 general elections. He considered that it was high time for all the secular parties to do some introspection as to why the number of Muslim members was coming down. Shri Owaisi also made reference to the Liberhan Commission and stated that Muslims still feel that justice had not been done on the Babri Masjid. He questioned the Government as to why it extended the Commission's term and sought information on who were the people responsible for the 9 December 1992 incident.

Shri Lalu Prasad (RJD) stated that the Government had chalked

out a 100-day programme which would provide 25 kg. of wheat or rice per month to the BPL (Below Poverty Line) families at the rate of Rs.3 per kg. on priority basis. However, he expressed his reservations on the accuracy of the figures on BPL families provided by the Government. He opined that merely giving them foodgrains and some financial assistance was not going to serve any purpose in the long run. He also referred to the Sachar Commission, which had given in its report that the representation of Muslims in the Government jobs was inadequate. Stating that there was lack of education among the Muslim girls, he suggested for provisions of scholarships and reservation for them.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh joined all the other members of the august House in conveying their sincere thanks to the Respected Rashtrapatiji for her thought-provoking Address. He stated that the conduct of free and fair elections and the subsequent formation of the Government were, indeed, a triumph for Indian democracy. The people could take legitimate pride in their achievements. There were many people who believed that parliamentary democracy could not succeed in a country as poor as India, and that it could not succeed in a country where the voters are illiterate. India had, however, proved all these prophets of doom and gloom wrong and the country had shown the resilience to march ahead.

Referring to the election results, the Prime Minister said that he accepted in all humility the mandate his Government had received. He said that the UPA Government recognized that this mandate cast a heavy responsibility to give the country a strong, purposeful and stable Government, committed to the pursuit of inclusive development process. He said that no development agenda could succeed if the Centre and the States do not work in a spirit of collaboration and harmony. He assured the members that the Government would operate strictly on the basis of objectivity while dealing with States and *Panchayati Raj* institutions. He urged all the Chief Ministers to work together in the National Development Council to earnestly implement the development agenda that the President had placed before the people.

The Prime Minister made a reference to the Indian economy and how it had been adversely affected recently due to the international slow down. The growth rate, which was about 9 per cent in the previous four years had declined to about 7 per cent. The Prime Minister said that the world economy had increasingly become inter-

dependent and that he could not promise that the country would not be affected by global events. He, however, expressed his conviction that, given the collective will, India could achieve a growth rate of 8 to 9 per cent, even if the world economy did not do well.

Dr. Manmohan Singh assured the members that massive effort had been made since November 2008 to streamline India's maritime security and to further tighten the vigil against future terrorist attacks. He informed that there were several other steps like improvements in intelligence sharing, Multi Agency Centre and constituting Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres in more States. The Net-Centric Information Command structure was being put in place to achieve online transfer of all actionable intelligence in a streamlined manner. Technical innovation and technical support to intelligence production had been given the highest priority. Steps had also been taken to improve the quality of intelligence analysis. He further stated that investigation into serious terrorist offences would be the responsibility of the newly constituted National Investigation Agency. The imperative necessity to have dedicated counter terrorist forces had been further reinforced. He informed that four new NSG hubs had been set up in different parts of the country and certain other dedicated counter terrorist forces were sought to be created.

Commenting on the country's foreign policy, the Prime Minister stated that India could not realize its ambitions unless there was peace and prosperity in South Asia. He stated that he had a vision for a transformed South Asia where, with mutual cooperation, the region would move from poverty to prosperity, from ignorance to knowledge society and from insecurity to lasting peace. He expressed his sincere belief that it was in India's vital interest to try to make peace again with Pakistan. Admitting that there were some disturbing trends, the Prime Minister expressed hope that the Government of Pakistan would create an atmosphere in which this vision could be realized. He expected the Government of Pakistan to take strong, effective and sustained action to prevent the use of their territory for the commission of acts of terrorism in India, or against Indian interests, and use every means at their disposal to bring to justice those who had committed these crimes in the past, including the attack on Mumbai. Concerning relations with Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister said that India had centuries-old ties with the people of Sri Lanka and a deep and abiding interest in the well-being of the Tamil people in that country. Responding to concerns expressed by members about the developments in Australia, the Prime Minister stated that he had

been appalled by the senseless violence and crime, some of it racially motivated against Indian students in Australia. He informed the members that he had already spoken to the Prime Minister of Australia on the matter and was assured that any racist attacks on Indian students would be strongly dealt with. He emphasised that India and Australia had very good relations and it had been the effort of both countries to widen and deepen these ties in the last five years. Commenting on the relations with China, he said that there was enough space for both China and India to develop and contribute to global peace, stability and prosperity. Both the countries have a large trading relationship and consulted each other on global issues. Although there were complex issues like the boundary question, both the countries have agreed upon a mechanism to address this matter. India wished to build a strong and stable relationship with China, he added.

The Prime Minister said that he was struck by an underlying sense of unity on all sides that India should move forward as a united nation to claim its coveted place in the comity of nations. He reiterated that that was the mandate, a mandate for change, for inclusive development, and to strengthen the secular foundations of India's magnificent Republic. He invited all the members to join him in passing the Motion of Thanks unanimously.

All the amendments moved were negatived and the Motion was adopted.

B. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Sarvashri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Guman Mal Lodha, Tulmohan Ram, A.F. Golam Osmani, Sri Shanker Tewari, Virendra Verma and Homi F. Daji, all former members.

Besides, references were made to the cyclone '*Aila*' which struck the State of West Bengal and also Bangladesh on 25 May 2009, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of property; and to an Air France plane with 228 persons that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean during its flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris.

Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Sixteenth Session on 4 June 2009, was adjourned *sine die* on 9 June 2009. The House was then prorogued by the President on 12 June 2009. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below:

A. STATEMENTS / DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the Members of the Parliament: On 4 June 2009, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the members of both Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi of the Indian National Congress (INC) on 5 June 2009. The Motion was seconded by Dr. Keshava Rao (INC). The discussion took place on 5, 8 and 9 June 2009.

Moving the motion, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi said that the Address by the President was important as it was a policy document of the work of the Government for the whole year outlining the Government's priorities and programmes of public welfare. He further stated that it was the first address for the newly constituted Fifteenth Lok Sabha and therefore all the more important.

Mentioning the priorities of the Government, he stated that the internal security was the foremost priority; followed by agriculture and manufacturing. He said that this Government had received the mandate to strengthen the programmes introduced earlier, to speed up the programmes of employment, education, health and rural infrastructure and the welfare of women, youth, backward classes, minorities, children, SCs and STs. He further elaborated that a time bound programme would be introduced to implement administrative reforms speedily with the involvement of the public. The Government would take measures to cope with the challenges of economic slowdown and bring more accountability and transparency in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. He mentioned that among other

* Contributed by the General Research Unit, LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

issues, judicial reforms and establishment of *'Lokayukta'* in each district, strengthening of Right to Information Act and Social Security Scheme were of prime concern. He underlined the fact that a system to monitor the implementation of programmes had been established in the Prime Minister's Office which would provide a quarterly report on the status of the programmes. He also mentioned an important shift in the policy of the Government, to disinvest all the public sector units so that the Government held 51 per cent equity. He further emphasized that a consensus in consultation with the political parties should be reached on foreign policies.

Seconding the motion, Dr. K. Keshava Rao stated that the Government was committed to inclusive growth not merely in economic but also in social and cultural aspects of the Indian society. Citing the achievements of the Government, he stated that even after global financial meltdown, no Indian Bank had closed down its branch. Moreover, in spite of all odds, agriculture could achieve 3.5 per cent growth rate. He further elaborated that the right to education was undergoing qualitative as well as quantitative expansion through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and there would be proper monitoring of it. He said that the terrorism could be checked by alertness and vigilance and there was no steadfast rule to stop it. He also mentioned the achievements of the Government in the infrastructure, social sector and the five year average of 8.5 per cent growth rate. While concluding, he sought constructive suggestions from the Opposition to serve the people better.

The Leader of Opposition, Shri Arun Jaitley (BJP) called upon the Government to fulfill the principal desires of an aspirational India to become a developed economy by the year 2020. He also appreciated the President's address on achieving high growth and maintaining low inflation. He emphasized on *'zero tolerance to terrorism'*, and to strengthen the country by securing the borders. He mentioned that the credibility of the Indian politics would rise if the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 100 days. He remarked that nuclear deal was not the touchstone for US-India relations, rather issues like signing of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), agricultural negotiations in WTO and carbon emission norms in the climate change negotiations had to be attended to. He urged the Government to look into the areas of agriculture and rural roads and examine the issue of *'one-rank one-pension'* for the armed forces. He expressed concern that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates had been affected by the high-tax regime. He also pointed out the inadequacy of the reference

to the foreign policy in the President's address. He further emphasized on the need for structural and legislative reforms to maintain independence and integrity of institutions like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The policy of disinvestment should aim at efficient performance of those companies which were valuable assets and also utilizing our resources, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Sitaram Yechury [CPI (M)] stated that his party would continue to defend the livelihood and rights of the people of India. He asked the Centre to take steps to prevent terrorist attacks by ensuring multi-agency coordination. He called for addressing the Centre-State relations and preserving the federal structure of the country. Legislature, he said, was supposed to keep a check on the Executive and hence there should be a constitutional mandate for the Parliament to sit for 100 days in a calendar year. He mentioned that the Government has to concentrate on judicial reforms. He urged that the Government look into the areas of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, contribution of 3 per cent of GDP for public health and 6 per cent of GDP for education. Referring to the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, Shri Yechary said the Bill would help to protect farmers and others dependent on the farming sector from unfair displacement. He further said that while the Government emphasized on developing the country's infrastructure, the policy of adopting Public-Private-Partnership was questionable. He elucidated that the policy of *'nonalignment'* had been glaringly omitted in the foreign policy of India. The Government should provide the youth of India with better education, health and employment, he added.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. V. Maitreyan (AIADMK) expressed

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Janeshwar Mishra, Tariq Anwar, Arun Shourie, Ram Narayan Sahu, D. Raja, Shantaram Laxman Naik, Kalraj Mishra, Mangala Kisan, Rajeev Shukla, M. Rama Jois, M.V. Mysura Reddy, Tapan Kumar Sen, Manohar Joshi, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Rahul Bajaj, Kumar Deepak Das, Ashwani Kumar, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Pyarimohan Mohapatra, Shivanand Tiwari, Arjun Kumar Sengupta, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, B.S. Gnanadesikan, Rajniti Prasad, Mohammad Shafi, Mahmood A. Madani, Rama Chandra Khuntia, Tiruchi Siva, Abani Roy, Mohammed Adeeb, Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi, Bharatkumar Raut, Naresh Gujral, Sardar Tarlochan Singh, Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Dr. Radhakant Nayak, Dr. K. Malaisamy, Dr. Barun Mukherji, Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. Janardhan Waghmare, Prof. P.J. Kurien, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Smt. Kanimozhi, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Smt. T. Ratna Bai, Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur and Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan

concern about the vulnerability of the Electronic Voting Machines and called for careful analysis of the Indian Electronic Voting System. He extended his party's wholehearted support to the Women's Reservation Bill. Expressing concern over the rise of naxalism in over 150 districts of the country, he said that naxalism should not be considered as a mere law and order problem and there was a need for direct yet sympathetic consideration. He also called for addressing the problems of lakhs of civilian refugees in Sri Lanka.

Participating in the discussion, Shri N.K. Singh of [JD-(U)] referred to ten different issues. These included: changing the system of education from memorizing to thinking analytically and creatively; protecting the intellectual property rights; constitution of a National Commission on Poverty; changing the nomenclature of Right to Food Act to Right to Livelihood Act; conversion of Planning Commission into the Ministry of Planning and Economy; grant of statutory status to National Development Council; need for a transparent disinvestment policy; constitution of a National Energy Board to implement integrated energy policy; public-private partnership for infrastructure building; and constructive cooperation in the areas of important international negotiations.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the President's Address was a broad indication of the overall strategy of development, security relations and foreign policy relations that the Government wished to pursue in the next five years. He stated that the basic problem of poverty could be alleviated only within the framework of a rapidly expanding economy. He further said that though the international climate was unfavourable for economic growth, yet sustenance of the growth rate was possible because of India's high domestic savings. The Government had devised concrete programmes to address the social dimensions of developmental problems. He stated that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide employment, *Bharat Nirman* Programme to build rural infrastructure, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and follow-up by the Secondary Education Programme for greater literacy, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) with proper monitoring of resources spent, and the National Highways Development Programme to ensure better connectivity were important. Moreover, steps were also taken to strengthen social security arrangement for workers in the unorganised sectors through *Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana*, and provision of pensions to widows and people below poverty line. He mentioned about the Backward Area

Grant Fund to strengthen 250 districts predominantly of Bihar, Orissa and other backward States. The Prime Minister emphasized that for the development process to function properly and for realizing the vision of a truly integrated economy and polity in the country there was need for empowerment of women. It was also equally important to ensure that hitherto marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities derive adequate and equitable benefit from the process of social and economic change. He also assured the House that the Australian Government was coordinating to resolve the attacks on Indian students. He expected the Government of Pakistan to take strong, effective and sustained actions to prevent the use of their territory for the commission of acts of terrorism in India. He also stated that the Government was actively pursuing the release and rehabilitation of internally displaced people of Sri Lanka He further stated that to counter terrorism and Left Wing Extremism, the Government had taken steps to improve the quality of intelligence analysis. The constitution of National Investigation Agency, improving the capability of National Security Guard and setting up of four new NSG hubs were the efforts of the Government in this direction. A thorough review of several programmes of tribal development, the amendment to the Land Acquisition Bill and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill to ensure that people were not displaced without adequate compensation were also steps to fight Left Wing extremism, he added.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Shankarrao Narayanrao Deshmukh, Tirath Ram Amla, Lokanath Misra, Habib Tanvir, Smt. Savita Behen and Smt. Vidyawati Chaturvedi, all former members.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Delhi Legislative Assembly which commenced its Second Session on 15 June 2009 was adjourned *sine die* on 1 July 2009. There were 13 sittings in all.

Address by the Lt. Governor: Being the Budget Session, the Lt. Governor of Delhi, Shri Tejendra Khanna addressed the House on 15 June 2009.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following Bills were introduced and passed by the House: (i) The Members of Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Salaries, Allowances, Pension etc.) (Amendment) Bill, 2009; (ii) Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2009; (iii) National Law School, Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 2009; and (iv) Delhi Technological University Bill, 2009.

Financial Business: The Finance Minister, Dr. Ashok Kumar Walia presented the Budget for the year 2009-10 in the House on 22 June 2009.

* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

10

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II. ARTICLES

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	1 June 2009 to 9 June 2009
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	7
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	28 hours 3 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	1
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
5.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	37
6.	NUMBER OF MATTERS ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED DURING ZERO HOUR	8
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	1
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
8.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total No. of Notices received	1
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
	(iii) Admitted	Nil
	(iv) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	1
9.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S) CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION	Nil
10.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	4,911 passes
11.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,270 passes issued on 2 June 2009
12.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Nil
13.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE	335 members on 1 June 2009 195 members on 2 June 2009 7 members on 3 June 2009 2 members on 4 June 2009& 1 member on 8 June 2009 540 members

14. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2009	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	—	—
iv)	Committee on Estimates	—	—
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	—	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	—	—
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	—	—
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee	1	—
	(a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	(b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—
Joint / Select Committee			
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

Departmentally Related Standing Committees

i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	—	—
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	—	—
iv)	Committee on Defence	—	—
v)	Committee on Energy	—	—
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	—	—
vii)	Committee on Finance	—	—
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	—	—
x)	Committee on Labour	—	—
xi)	Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	—	—
xii)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	—	—
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	—	1
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	—	—

15. CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2009
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	—
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	—
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	4 June to 9 June 2009
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	4 days
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	16 Hours 57 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Nil
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	45
	(ii) Introduced	Nil
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
	(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	Nil
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	Nil
	(xi) Discussed	Nil
	(xii) Passed	Nil
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	Nil
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	37
6.	PRIVÅTE MEMBERS BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	179

	(ii) Introduced	*Nil*
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	*Nil*
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	*Nil*
	(v) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(vi) Discussed	Nil
	(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(viii) Passed	Nil
	(ix) Negatived	Nil
	(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
	(xi) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
	(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
	(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	Nil
	(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	144
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Discussions held	Nil
	NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
8.	STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTERS	Nil
9.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	Nil
10.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Moved	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Moved	Nil

(iv) Adopted	Nil
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Discussed	Nil
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Discussion Postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved & discussed	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	303

18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS — 142

19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED — 119 (on 9.6.2009)

20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE — 178 (on 8.6.2009)

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

    (i) Starred — Nil

    (ii) Unstarred — Nil

    (iii) Short-Notice Questions — Nil

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 April – 30 June 2009	No. of Reports presented during the 216th Session
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	1	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	Nil
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	1	1
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	1	Nil
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	2
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	Nil	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees :			
(x)	Commerce	1	3
(xi)	Home Affairs	Nil	Nil
(xii)	Human Resource Development	Nil	1
(xiii)	Industry	Nil	Nil
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	Nil	1
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	Nil	Nil
(xvi)	Health and Family Welfare	Nil	Nil
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	Nil	Nil
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil

(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computer Equipment to Members of Rajya Sabha	Nil	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	Nil	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	Nil	Nil
24.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Nil	
25.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	Nil	

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATES

S. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1.	2	3	4
1.	Dr. N. Janardhana Reddy	INC	27.04.2009
2.	Shri M.P. Achuthan	CPI	-do-
3.	Shri P. Rajeeve	CPI(M)	-do-
4.	Shri Vayalar Ravi	INC	-do-

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

S. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Shri Shankarrao Narayanrao Deshmukh	Ex-Member
2.	Shri Tirath Ram Amla	-do-
3.	Shrimati Savita Behan	-do-
4.	Shri Lokanath Misra	-do-
5.	Shrimati Vidyawati Chaturvedi	-do-
6.	Shri Habib Tanvir	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	29.6.2009 to 21.7.2009	13	17(17)	—	645(240)	421(567)•	185(175)
Bihar L.A.	26.6.2009 —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	26.6.2009 —	—	—	—	949(907)	–(5)•	236(184)
Chhattisgarh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kerala L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.	1.6.2009 to 16.6.2009	13	11(14)	2	5808(910)	4(1783)@	1
Maharashtra L.C.	1.6.2009 to 16.6.2009	13	3(10)	2	3305(1010)	–(408)@	2
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	8.6.2009 to 30.7.2009	28	6(5)	—	2,215(131)	1,972(2,279)@	5(1)
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	—	—	—	—	650(141)	–(301)@	50
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	570(285)	1,110(732)	35(20)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	315(261)	402(262)	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	15.6.2009 to 1.7.2009	13	3(4)	—	–(240)	–(551)	—
Puducherry L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	3	1	2	—	—	1	3	1	1	2	—	—	4	—	—	6[a]
Bihar L.A.	1	10	11	11	—	12	11	13	11	3	10	11	11	—	—	97[b]
Bihar LtC.	1(1)	12	11	11	11	—	11	11	—	—	12	11	—	—	—	82[c]
Chhattisgarh L.A.	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	1	9	—	—	2[d]
Goa L.A.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	29[e]
Gujarat L.A.	1(1)	2	2	1(1)	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	2[f]
Haryana L.A.	—	20	20	—	2	25	24	20	25	—	2	16	13	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	4	10	4	—	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	20[g]
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	—	6	3	—	4	5	—	—	3	—	—	—	6	—	—	6[h]
Jammu & Kashmir LC.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	—	7	10	—	10	9	9	10	11	—	11	8	9(2)	1	—	28[i]
Karnataka L.C.	—	10	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	—	6	6	6	1	7	5	6	8	7	7	3	8	—	—	64[j]
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.	2(1)	10(9)	5(1)	2(2)	8(4)	6(1)	7(1)	8(1)	8(4)	—	1	1	6(3)	1	—	33(10)[k]
Maharashtra L.C.	2(1)	3(5)	1	1(1)	1	6(1)	7(1)	8(1)	8(4)	—	1	1	6(3)	1	—	32(9)[l]
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	1	5	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	3(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A.	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1[m]
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	13	—	—	—	3	3	6	2	—	—	—	6	1	—	7[n]
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	5	12	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	36[o]
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

a) Act Implementation Committee-1; OBC & MOBC Committee-3; and Employment Review Committee-2

b) Aachar Committee-3; Tourism Development Committee-10; Internal Resources Committee-10; Members Fund Monitoring and Implementation Committee-10; Agricultural and Industries Development Committee-11; Nivedan Committee-11; Zero Hour Committee-11; Women and Child Development-10; Question and Calling Attention Committee-11; and Zila Panchayat / Zila Parishad Committee-10

c) Human Rights Committee-11; Committee on Questions and Calling Attention-10; Nivedan Committee-10; Committee on Welfare of Minorities-10; Committee on Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj-11; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-11; Committee on State Language-10; and Implementation Committee-9

d) Question and Reference Committee-2

e) *Ad hoc* Committee on Agriculture and Forests-2; *Ad hoc* Committee on Law-4; *Ad hoc* Committee on PWD, Panchayats and Transport-2; *Ad hoc* Committee on Home-5; *Ad hoc* Committee on Health and Social Welfare-3; *Ad hoc* Committee on Finance-3; *Ad hoc* Committee on Education, Sports and Information Technology-7; and *Ad hoc* Committee on Industries, Labour and Tourism-3

f) Members' Pay and Allowance Rules Committee-2

g) Welfare Committee-8; Public Administration Committee-2; Human Development Committee-2; General Development Committee-6; and Rural Planning Committee-2

h) Committee on Environment-4; and Ethics Committee-2

i) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-10; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-8; and Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-10

j) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children and Physically Handicapped-6; Committee on Environment-6; Committee on Welfare of Backward Class Communities-6; Committee on Official Language-6; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4; Committee on Local Funds Accounts-7; and Subject Committees-29

k) Committee on Welfare of Vimukti Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-4(1); Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-7(2); Committee on Leave of Absence of Members from Sittings of the House-1(1); Committee on Panchayati Raj-8(3); Catering Committee-2; Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-3; Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-7(2); and *Ad hoc* Committee on Information of Separate University for Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Gondiya District-1(1)

l) Committee on Welfare of Vimukti Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-4(1); Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-7(2); Committee on Panchayati Raj-8(3); Catering Committee-2; Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-3; Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-7(2); and *Ad hoc* Committee on Information of Separate University for Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Gondiya District-1(1)

m) Committee on Members Pay and Allowances-1

n) Committee relating to Examination of Audit Reports of the Local Bodies of the State-7

o) Committee on Reference and Question-2; Committee on Financial and Administration Delays-3; Committee on Parliamentary Study-2; Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of UP Legislature-1; Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-1; Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-5; Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-10; Committee on Regulation Review-4; Committee on Ragging in Colleges/Engineering Institutions-3; Daivee Aapda Prabandhan Samiti-3; and Committee on Commercialization of Education-2

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President

NIL

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009
2. The Assam Healthy, Infrastructure and Services Development Fund Bill, 2009
3. The Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Assam Entry Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009
5. The Assam Agriculture Income Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009
6. The Assam Taxation (On Special Lands) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009
7. The Assam Tax on Luxuries (Hotels and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
8. The Assam Land Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2009
9. The Assam Nagara Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2009
10. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2009
11. The Assam Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009
12. The Assam Administration of Justice in the North Cachar Hills District Bill, 2009
13. The Assam Administration of Justice in the Karbi Anglong District Bill, 2009
14. The National Law School and Judicial Academy Assam Bill, 2009
15. The Assam Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009
16. The Wild Life (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2009

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Cotton Seeds (Regulation of Supply, Distribution, Sale and Fixation of Sale Price) Bill, 2009
2. The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2009
3. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2009
5. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2009
6. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009
7. The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members, Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension and the Leaders of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature, Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2009
8. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, the Dr. Babasaheb

Ambedkar Technological University and the Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya (University) (Amendment) Bill, 2009

9. The Pandharpur Development Authority Bill, 2009
10. The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University and the Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya (University) (Amendment) Bill, 2009
2. The Pandharpur Development Authority Bill, 2009
3. The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009
4. The Maharashtra Cotton Seeds (Regulation of Supply, Distribution, Sale and Fixation of Sale Price) Bill, 2009
5. The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2009
6. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2009
7. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2009
8. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2009
9. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009
10. The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members, Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension and the Leaders of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature, Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2009

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2009

Sl. NO.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
1.	The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2009	19.3.2009	4.6.2009	—	—
2.	The Meghalaya Appropriation Ordinance, 2009	19.3.2009	4.6.2009	—	—
		KARNATAKA			
1.	The Karnataka Municipalities and Certain other Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	28.5.2009	—	—	—
2.	The Universities of Agricultural Sciences Ordinance, 2009	2.6.2009	—	—	—
3.	The University of Horticultural Sciences Ordinance, 2009	2.6.2009	—	—	—
4.	The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	4.6.2009	—	—	—

5.	The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	4.6.2009	—	—	—
			KERALA		
1.	The Kerala Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	1.6.2009	22.6.2009	—	—
			MADHYA PRADESH		
1.	The Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2009	25.5.2009	—	—	—
			MAHARASHTRA		
1.	The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 2009	20.3.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	—
2.	The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	24.3.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Maharashtra Medicare Services Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Ordinance, 2009	30.3.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	—
4.	The Maharashtra Cotton Seeds (Regulation of Supply, Distribution, Sale and Fixation of Sale Price) Ordinance, 2009	9.5.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	Replaced by Legislation

5.	The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	16.5.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	—
6.	The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Ordinance. 2009	18.5.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	Replaced by Legislation
7.	The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University and the Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya (University) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	25.5.2009	1.6.2009	12.7.2009	Replaced by Legislation
		UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	27.5.2009	—	—	—
2.	Dr. Shakuntala Misra Rehabilitation University (For Differently Abled) Uttar Pradesh (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	2.6.2009	—	—	—
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	8.6.2009	—	—	—
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Entertainments and Betting Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	16.6.2009	—	—	—
5.	The Uttar Pradesh Advertisement Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	16.6.2009	—	—	—

6.	The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Tribunal) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	16.6.2009	—	—	—
7.	The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Reservation for Physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-Servicemen (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009	16.6.2009	—	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN 15TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 12 JUNE 2009)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	SP	BSP	JD (U)	AITC	DMK	CPI (M)	BJD	SHIV SENA	NCP	AIA DMK	TDP	RLD	CPI	SAD	RJD	JKNC	JD (S)	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	1*	12	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	11	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	11	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Jharkhand	14	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	6	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Kerala	20	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	12	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	17	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	8	—	—	—	—	—	18	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	21	10	22$	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	1	—	—	—	19	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	543	205*	116	22$	21	20	19	18	16	14	11	9	9	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	2

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

States	JMM	MLK SC	RSP	TRS	AIM EIM	AGP	AUDF	BVA	BPF	HJC (BL)	JVM (P)	KC (M)	MD MK	NPF	SDF	SP	VCK	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	39*	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	14	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttarakhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	79	1
West Bengal	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	42	—
UNION TERRITORIES																				
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puducherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	541	1

* Excluding Speaker, Lok Sabha
$ Firozabad constituency is presently vacant

Abbreviations used for Parties :

AGP-Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB-All India Forward Bloc; AIADMK-All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam; AIMEIM-All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC-All India Trinamool Congress; AUDF-Assam United Democratic Front; BJD-Biju Janata Dal; BJP-Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP-Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BPF-Bodoland Peoples Front; BSP-Bahujan Samaj Party; BVA-Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi; CPI(M)-Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI-Communist Party of India; DMK-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; HJC(BL)-Haryana Janhit Congress(BL); INC-Indian National Congress; IND-Independents; J&KNC-Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)-Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)-Janata Dal (United); JMM-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; JVM(P)-Jharkhand Vikas Morcha(Prajatantrik); KC(M)-Kerala Congress(M); LJSP-Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK-Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC-Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF-Mizo National Front; NCP-Nationalist Congress Party; NLP-National Loktantrik Party; NPF-Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK-Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD-Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD-Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)-Republican Party of India(A); RSP-Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD-Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF-Sikkim Democratic Front; SP-Samajwadi Party; SP-Swabhimani Paksha; SS-Shiv Sena; TDP-Telugu Desam Party; TRS-Telangana Rashtra Samithi; VCK-Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi.

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 7 JULY 2009)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD(U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	CPI	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	14	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[b]	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	5[c]	—	15	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
8.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[d]	1	4	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[e]	—	3	1
11.	Jharkhand	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[f]	1	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[g]	1	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	1[h]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2
15.	Maharashtra	19	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8[i]	1	16	3
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[j]	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[k]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[l]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[m]	—	9	1
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[n]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[o]	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	4	—	—	1	—	7	—	1	5[b]	—	18	—
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	—	4	13	—	—	—	11	—	1[q]	1	30	1
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	1	4[r]	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES														
29.	The NCT of Delhi	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
30.	Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	9[s]	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	67	47	13	15	6	7	11	5	53	7	231	14

*OTHERS
(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) Telegu Desam Party-2
(b) Asom Gana Parishad-2; and Bodoland People's Front-1
(c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-4; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
(d) Indian National Lok Dal-1
(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1
(f) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-1
(g) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(h) Muslim League-1
(i) Shiv Sena-4; Nationalist Congress Party-3; and Swatantra Bharat Paksh-1
(j) Nationalist Congress Party-1
(k) Mizo National Front-1
(l) Nagaland Peoples' Front-1
(m) Biju Janata Dal-3
(n) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(o) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(p) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-4; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1
(q) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1
(r) All India Trinamool Congress-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; and All India Forward Bloc-1
(s) Nominated-9

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE / UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2009)	60	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[a]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (1.7.2009)	243	8	52	1	3	1	4	81	—	65[b]	10	225	18
Bihar L.C. (1.4.2009)	71	3	14	2	3	—	—	19	—	8[c]	20	69#	—
Chhattisgarh L.A. (1.7.2009)	90	38	49	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	89	1
Goa L.A. (1.7.2009)	40	18	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	3[d]	2	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.7.2009)	182	53	116	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	175	7
Haryana L.A. (1.7.2009)	90	64	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	9[e]	10	86@	3
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2009)	68	22	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	66	2
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.7.2009)	89	17	—	1	—	—	11	—	—	56[f]	4	89	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (30.6.2009)	82	8	24	1	—	1	—	4	—	33[g]	2	73@	8
Karnataka L.A. (6.7.2009)	225	73	114	—	—	—	—	—	25	1[h]	6	219@	5
Karnataka L.C.	75	28	28	—	—	—	—	1	13	—	3	73@	1

Kerala L.A (1.7.2009)	138	21	—	60	[illegible]	2	—	—	5	27[k]	5	137[e]	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2009)	230	68	142	—	—	—	7	—	—	6[u]	3	226[e]	3
Maharashtra L.A. (1.7.2009)	289	73	53	3	—	68	—	—	—	64[h]	18	279	10
Maharashtra L.C. (1.7.2009)	78	20	10	—	—	22	—	—	—	15[f]	9	76	2
Manipur L.A.** (1.7.2009)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.7.2009)	60	19	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	32[m]	7	60	—
Orissa L.A. (1.7.2009)	147	27	6	—	1	4	—	—	—	103[n]	6	147	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A. (30.6.2009)	60	10	—	46	1	—	—	—	—	3[o]	—	60	—
Uttarakhand L.A. (1.7.2009)	71	20	35	—	—	—	8	—	—	7[p]	—	70	1
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2009)	404	19	48	—	—	—	216	—	—	100[q]	8	391	13
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.9.2009)	100	3	17	—	—	—	22	—	—	50[r]	5	97	3
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A. (1.7.2009)	70	42	23	—	—	—	2	—	—	1[s]	1	69	1
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

Excluding Chairman & Acting Chairman

a) Arunachal Congress-2

b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-50; Lok Jan Shakti Party-9; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-5; and Akhil Jan Vikas Dal-1

c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-8

d) United Goans Democratic Party-1; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2

e) Indian National Lok Dal-9

f) National Conference-28; Peoples Democratic Party-21; National Panthers Party-3; Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Party Nationalist-1; Peoples Democratic Front-1; and Nominated-2

g) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Jharkhand Party-2; and Nominated-1

h) Nominated-1

i) Muslim League-7; Kerala Congress (M)-7; Kerala Congress-4; Revolutionary Socialist Party-3; Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (B)-1; Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi-1; Indian National League-1; and Nominated-1

j) Bharatiya Jan Shakti-5; and Samajawadi Party-1

k) Shiv Sena Party-53; Jan Surajya Shakti-4; Peasants and Workers Party-2; Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; Swatantra Bharat Paksha-1; Aakhil Bharatiya Sena-1; and Nominated- 1

l) Shiv Sena -8; Peasants and Workers Party-1; Republican Party of India (A)-2; Lok bharti-1; and Suspended-3

m) Nagaland Peoples Front-32

n) Biju Janata Dal-103

o) Revolutionary Socialist Party-2; and Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura-1

p) Uttarakhand Party-3; Nominated-1; and Others-3

q) Samajwadi Party-89; Rashtriya Lok Dal-9; Rashtriya Swabhiman Party-1; and Nominated-1

r) Samajwadi Party-35; Rashtriya Lok Dal-5; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikchhak Dal (Non-Political)-9

s) Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

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